





## Sketch

## Scarlet robes and a slimline ritual



Simon Hoggart

IN RUSSIA they got rid of their aristocracy all at once. Stormed the Winter Palace and then soon afterwards shot the lot.

Here we seem to be doing it in a more civilised fashion, by slow, incremental degrees. A small humiliation here, a tiny slight there. We may be the first European country to abolish the peers by snubbing them to death.

I popped along to the House of Lords yesterday to watch the new slimline initiation ceremony. This has replaced the old one in which each novice had to doff his pointed hat three times to the Lord Chancellor, very slowly.

At first, things seemed normal. At 2.30, prompt as ever, Lord Irvine appeared in solemn procession. What a very Dickensian Lord Chancellor he is! His well-fed jowls match perfectly the stern, forbidding, crimson face. He should be played by the late Charles Laughton, or else by a bloodhound with a taste for good claret.

His train-bearer was a pleasant-looking, rosy-cheeked, white-haired lady. She failed to let go of him in time yesterday, and had to throw the last scrap of cloth into the Chamber of the Duke, which she did with a fetching smile.

The two new peers were both Asians, and it seemed a little hard on them and their many friends and supporters, that, after climbing so far up the greasy pole of British society, they had to suffer the new, modernised, Cool Britannia ritual.

"It's neither one thing nor the other," a Liberal peer complained to me beforehand, and he was right. Either you have antique ceremonial or you don't; you can't blend it seamlessly with signing on at the Job Centre.

Pola Uddin, the first Bangladeshi woman to sit on a local

council, stepped forward. She is now, in the proclamation read out on behalf of the Queen, entitled to the "name, style, degree, style, dignity, title and honour of Baroness Uddin of Bethnal Green in our London Borough of Tower Hamlets".

She replied by saying: "I do swear by Almighty Allah..." and this may have been a first, too, though in the House of Lords who can say? Perhaps some confused old buffers returned from the Crusades saying the same thing. (Yesterday a hereditary peer managed to swear fealty to "Queen Victoria".)

Baroness Uddin signed in, bowed quickly once to Lord Irvine, and was on her way with speedy if soulless efficiency. Next came Waleed Ali, the 34-year-old TV tycoon. Instead of being Baron Ali of the Big Breakfast, however, he has settled for "Northbury, in our London Borough of Croydon".

He was wearing an earring, which may also be a first for a baron. But for all I know, scarlet robes, lashings of ermine, and plenty of gold jewellery may be what the well-dressed young tycoon wears to the office these days.

There then followed one of those short debates the Lords are so good at, blending sound common sense with wild, surrealism. Lord Morris, a Labour peer, wanted to know if there was any chance of the wrought-iron gates being removed from the end of Downing Street.

Lord McIntosh said there were too many threats from terrorism. Lord Morris pointed out there had been no shots during the war, or during the 1919 police strike. And, he ended triumphantly, if they were so essential, why were there no gates at the other end of the street?

Ah, replied Lord McIntosh, that was different. "At the back is a flight of steps which would make access for bombers very difficult."

Lord McCarthy couldn't believe this. "Is my noble friend seriously saying that assassins cannot run up stairs?"

"Not carrying heavy bombs," replied Lord McIntosh. "Guns and rifles, yes, small portable bombs, perhaps, but try dragging a tactical nuke up those steps! It'd be the death of you."

## Review

## Of fatherhood and fecundity

Michael Billington

Closer Than Ever  
Jerrym Street Theatre

SIZE isn't everything. After some of the over-typed musical dinosaurs of recent weeks, it is pleasant to come across a modest off-Broadway songbook musical by Richard Maltby and David Shire that takes a very, useful look at the stresses of urban life and which, even more unusually, celebrates fatherhood and fecundity.

Quite simply we get 24 songs sung by four actors in a New York subway train. It's a bit like Sondheim's *Company* without the plot, in that the emphasis is on marital strains, agonised relationships, missed chances, the difficulty of solidifying Sondheim suggests that couples are cemented by "the children we destroy together" this show dares to suggest that parenthood is a consolation rather than a curse and even a measure of our earthly existence.

Maltby's lyrics and Shire's music are admirably mainly satirical in tone. One song, wittily rendered by Beverley Klein, shows a woman reading a letter from an ex-lover who begs to be a friend. As she waspishly retorts: "I've got an aunt in Cleveland I can always turn to for that."

Each performer gets his or her turn in the spotlight. Helen Hobson, who combines a demure countenance with

an extravagantly split skirt, vamps the base player with a wealth of lyric innuendo. Gareth Snook explores the plight of the good guy in mid-life crisis, "drowning in plenty but pining for more".

He added: "The nest has probably been there four or five weeks but the wasps are coming out now because they have been stirred from their hibernation by the hot and humid weather of the past few days."

As their peak period of August looms, their threat is set to increase. "If we get some very warm weather, this could be a big year for them," warned entomologist Tony Stephens, spokesman for pest control company, Rentokil Initial.

The Euro wasp differs from the common English wasp, or *vespa vulgaris*, in size and hardness. In contrast to the smaller, weaker species, which builds its nest in sheds and lofts, the Euro wasp sets up home in trees and bushes — where it can easily be disturbed by unsuspecting gardeners.

Its nest may be smaller than its English cousin's 2-ft edifices, and contain around 300 wasps compared to 15,000-20,000, but this means it can be more readily hidden — and so inadvertently stumbled upon.

But while one in 100 people suffer from anaphylactic shock, an extreme reaction to wasp or bee stings which can cause death, there is some compensation to the Euro wasp's invasion. For, so far, the insect is not believed to have killed anyone in Britain.

Home Secretary unveils radical strategy with warning to chief constables to prepare for efficiency reforms

## Straw challenge to police

Alan Travis  
Home Affairs Editor

**J**ACK Straw last night challenged head-on the populist view that increasing police numbers means less crime as he unveiled the details of his radical £220 million crime reduction strategy.

The Home Secretary also distanced himself from some forms of "zero tolerance" policing as he warned chief constables they could no longer be immune from the kind of efficiency reforms that had swept through the rest of the public sector under the Conservatives.

Mr Straw outlined to MPs the details of his strategy aimed at tackling the family breakdown and social exclusion that breed crime as the

Home Office published "sensational" research that demolishes some of the more populist law-and-order myths about the effectiveness of putting more "bobbies on the beat", of passing more and stiffer prison sentences and of setting up neighbourhood watch schemes.

In its place the "evidence-based" strategy pushes the police to target their efforts on repeat attacks and to concentrate measures on crime "hotspots". It calls on the system as a whole to tackle the social causes of crime through long-term investment in children, families and schools.

The Home Office research will be used to channel the extra funding into programmes that work in cutting crime and disorder. Projects that fail to pass the "what works" test may lose funds.

Mr Straw announced he

was cancelling a planned £5 million cut in the probation service and would instead give it an £18 million boost next year. A further £660 million over three years is to be made available for the prison service to pay for extra capacity and to expand treatment programmes.

Mr Straw's announcement, made as part of the Government's Comprehensive Spending Review, marks a complete change in law-and-order rhetoric from the days that his predecessor, Michael Howard, espoused his "prison works" policy and clashed with Home Office researchers over the evidence.

The official research published yesterday, *Reducing Offending*, questions the effectiveness of "zero tolerance" policing — a policy Mr Straw strongly espoused — saying that while there is

"moderately strong evidence" it can reduce serious crime in the short term there are large question marks over its long-term impact, including the inability of the police to distinguish between firm and harsh policing.

Hard on the heels of last week's debate about the prospect of private security guards patrolling the streets, Mr Straw said he was trying to encourage an informed debate about the effectiveness of the police service. He said that while setting the number of police officers was a matter for chief constables alone, police numbers had increased significantly during the 1980s and yet crime had risen at an even faster rate. "It is a matter of interest that when the number of police officers levelled out, crime fell," he said.

He said the Conservatives had led the way in producing

efficiency savings across the public sector but had closed their eyes to the question of the relative inefficiency of the police service.

"Every other public service had to undergo efficiency improvements and on the whole they benefited from doing more for less. There is a huge variation in the efficiency and effectiveness of the police service and this is not related to resources," said Mr Straw.

But the shadow home secretary, Sir Norman Fowler, said the new police budgets would mean that many police forces would face reductions in their strengths. "Rather than more and more policemen and women on the beat we face the prospect of less and they would not sensibly be replaced by red-coated local authority street patrols."

Leader comment, page 9

## Main points

- Effectiveness of populist measures such as extra beat bobbies, zero tolerance and neighbourhood watch questioned by new research
- £220 million crime reduction strategy to target social causes and focus on crime through long-term investment in children, families and schools
- "Problem solving" policing to target crime hotspots and repeat offenders
- Programmes that fail to cut crime will lose funding
- Probation service to get £18 million next year, and the prison service an extra £660 million over three years
- Police to find 2 per cent a year efficiency savings

## Invasion of the giant Eurowasp creates a buzz

Gemma Hall

**I**T IS a fate we have fiercely avoided since 1906, saving off the Spanish Armada, and crushing the ambitions of such would-be conquerors as Hitler and Napoleon.

But now a new breed of continental upstart has invaded Britain. The one-inch Eurowasp (*doctocoeus spolia mada*) has, in the past few days, reasserted its grip on the nation.

Its numbers have reached an all-time high and — with temperatures rising over the weekend — the wasps have swarmed out of their football-sized nests.

From Devon to North Yorkshire, the insects — which are dwarfed only by the British hornet — have been out in force, blighting the east and south coasts.

At Ipswich, the council has received 40 calls a day from concerned householders. Its head of pest control, Mike Grimwood, said: "Over the past four or five years we have seen more and more of these wasps — but this year we have had more than previously and our three experts are currently dealing with 25 nests a day."

"The nests have probably been there four or five weeks but the wasps are coming out now because they have been stirred from their hibernation by the hot and humid weather of the past few days."

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The Eurowasp, reasserting its grip on Britain

PHOTOGRAPH: NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

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## US presses Lockerbie relatives to go to Hague

Ian Black  
Diplomatic Editor

**M**ADELAINE Albright, the US secretary of state, was last night lobbying American relatives of the Lockerbie bombing victims to accept a trial of the Libyan suspects under Scottish law in The Hague.

Mrs Albright and Sandy Berger, President Clinton's national security adviser, phoned families to tell them of a sharp shift in policy designed to force Colonel Muammar Gaddafi to comply with United Nations resolutions and surrender the two men accused of killing 270 people nearly 10 years ago.

It followed the Guardian's revelation yesterday that London and Washington had dramatically reversed their seven-year insistence that the suspects, Libyan intelligence officers, could only be tried in Scotland or the US.

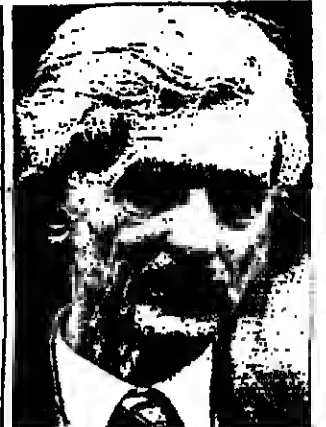
In London the Foreign Office and Downing Street insisted there should still be a Scottish trial. But Tony Blair's official spokesman said: "We are willing to explore any option which would bring justice to the families. Discussions on such options have been taking place for some time... We will maintain close co-operation with our allies on these options."

A senior Foreign Office source said: "People are looking at this in a constructive way and if there are ways that preserve the view that it should be a Scottish or US court where the trial takes place, then that is the sort of option people are looking at."

Abdel Basset al-Megrahi and Lamin Khalifah Fhimah were accused in November 1986 of planting the suitcase bomb that killed the 270 people on Pan Am flight 103 over Lockerbie on December 31 1988. Libya has long claimed that it would accept a trial in a third country under Scottish procedures but with an international panel of judges headed by a senior Scottish judge.

Jim Swire, spokesman for UK Families Flight 103, in a letter to the Guardian, said the development was totally unexpected, but extremely welcome. While expressing caution, he said: "It is unexpected because the UK and US have been telling us for six years that the Security Council resolutions, requiring 'our' transfer of the accused to Britain or America for trial, must take precedence over any other solution."

British families have long demanded that the government accept a trial in a neutral venue. But in New Jer-



'Shift in policy totally unexpected, but extremely welcome'

Jim Swire, spokesman for UK Families Flight 103

sey, a furious Susan Cohen, whose 20-year-old daughter died in the atrocity, said after talking with Mrs Albright and Mr Berger: "They are about to negotiate with Gaddafi who is a thug and a terrorist. We told them we thought their policies have failed. They just want to shut this up and make it go away."

Rosemary Wolf, another Lockerbie relative, said: "They are talking to the Dutch to discuss conditions for a Scottish court sitting in the Netherlands, but there has been no resolution of this and I had the impression they are not convinced this is workable."

Behind the change lies mounting concern in Washington and London that the sanctions will become harder to maintain if they do not call Libya's bluff. But few diplomats expect Colonel Gaddafi to hand the men over and risk exposing his regime's complicity in an act of mass murder. UN sources said they feared a full-blown crisis if the general assembly challenges the security council's stand on sanctions, which involve an air and arms embargo.

Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, is expected to see families of the British victims before the end of this month. But though previous meetings have been scheduled long in advance, this one has yet to be finalised.

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## The boardroom bonanza

continued from page 1

pond windfalls year after year.

Hans Snook, the chief of mobile phones group Orange, is already looking at a gain of £2.5 million on his share options even though the company has yet to make a profit.

David Varney at BG received a six figure transfer fee, while Marjorie Scardino, the head of media group Pearson, doubled her £780,000 salary with share option grants.

options on top of his £5.5 million pay packet.

The scale of the capital which top directors can now amass was shown by Jim Sutcliffe at insurance giant Prudential who took more than £1.4 million in compensation when he lost his job, even though he is only in his 40s and likely to find a replacement career shortly.

The continuing growth in boardroom pay comes after a decade of government-inspired attempts to rein in directors' remuneration and es-

tablish better standards in the boardroom, with a series of high-profile committees led by top businessmen Sir Richard Greenbury, Sir Adrian Cadbury and, most recently, Sir Ronald Hamptel.

But this Government has shied away from criticising the apparent failings of the boardroom in its effort to maintain friendly relations with business and the City.

Although the Government has recently threatened to curb excessive pay awards in the boardrooms of the priva-

tised utility companies, the Guardian's research indicates this may already be outdated as these businesses have comparatively modest pay package increases.

But against the background threat of stagnation and the increasingly tense monthly meetings of the Bank of England's monetary policy committee to decide interest rates, Mr Brown is believed to be furious at the latest signs of government impotence against greed in the boardroom.

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## 24-hour opening plan for city pubs

James Meikle

**A** RADICAL shake-up of "outdated" licensing laws to pave the way for European-style 24-hour city centres and reduce drink-related crime was recommended by government advisers yesterday.

Present pub and nightclub closing times were helping to fuel violence and disorder by spilling intoxicated people on to the streets, said a report from the Better Regulation Task Force.

More flexible, staggered opening hours covering different zones could protect residential and country areas from late-night disturbance.

Recommendations from the task force will be considered as part of a review by the Home Office, where one minister, George Howarth, has already said it is time to "blow the cobwebs away" by modernising the liquor laws.

Christopher Haskins, the task force chairman, and head of Northern Foods, said: "It is time for regulators to refocus on the reasons for regulating the sale of alcohol: to prevent nuisance and disorder, and to protect young and vulnerable members of society."

"The licensing arrangements have a wonderful Victorian legacy where they introduce a high moral time which is largely benign."

This condoned drinking at one time, yet condemned it just half-an-hour later.

Pubs usually close at 11pm, but can have licence extensions, while nightclubs close at 2am, or 3am in London.

Mr Haskins said: "In the West End of London, it seems to us, there is no particular reason why pubs should not remain open 24 hours a day. On the other hand, if you are in remote Wiltshire, and someone has a pub blaring hoagies through the night, they would be considered to be a public nuisance."

Allan Charlesworth, assistant chief constable of Yorkshire police, who chaired the task force's group on licensing, said all day drinking, allowed since 1988, had not resulted in increased consumption or disorder. Experimental opening until 4am in Leeds, Manchester and Liverpool during the Euro 96 football tournament had led to less trouble.

"At the moment if a pub closes at 11pm or shortly afterwards, people spill into the street. They have probably downed two or three beers rather rapidly, they want fast food, they want to queue for the nightclubs, for buses and taxis. It is the presence of these people in an intoxicated state which causes disorder."

At present 160,000 premises in England and Wales apply to magistrates' courts for a host of licences which were granted on inconsistent criteria, said the task force, transferring the responsibility to councils, which grant entertainment licences on health and safety grounds, would make the system more like the Scottish model. Individuals who receive a licence should be able to transfer their business without having to reapply for a licence.

The report calls for a review of "patchwork" legislation on the age at which drinking or buying drink becomes legal, saying it is hard to justify an inconsistency that makes it an offence for someone of 17 to buy beer in a bar but out for a parent to buy the same drink for a 13-year-old if he or she is in the restaurant or beer garden.

Similarly, it is illogical for the law to prohibit someone under 18 from buying beer in a bar while no equivalent offence exists for off-sales. "The Government needs to consider afresh the rationale for the differences, particularly as a 'safe society' develops and the old distinctions between pubs and restaurants blur."

The Brewers and Licensed Retailers Association said: "Let's hope pubs will finally get legislation for the 20th century whilst there is still some of it left."

Mary Ann McKibben, assistant director of Alcohol Concern, said: "Any changes should be done carefully, based on experience of extensive pilots, and not done overnight."

Leader comment, page 9



Benazir Bhutto: A Swiss magistrate accuses her of spending money laundered by her husband, and salted away in a secret bank account. She denies the allegations. PHOTOGRAPH BY MICHAEL SCHWARTZ

## Bhutto and 'dirty diamonds'

### Former Pakistan PM denies link to laundered money and jewels

Owen Bennett Jones in Islamabad

**T**HE FORMER prime minister of Pakistan, Benazir Bhutto, used laundered money to buy a diamond necklace worth \$117,000 while in London, according to documents handed over to investigating authorities in Islamabad by the Swiss government.

The allegation is contained in a memorandum that formally notifies Pakistan that the Swiss authorities are charging Ms Bhutto's husband, Asif Zardari, with

money laundering. Mr Zardari, who is being held in Karachi for his alleged involvement in the 1996 murder of Ms Bhutto's estranged brother, Mr Murtaza Bhutto, will be served with the indictment in prison.

The latest legal move is a further blow to the tarnished reputation of the Oxford-educated opposition leader whose premiership promised a fresh start for her country but disintegrated two years ago amid allegations of corruption.

Ms Bhutto and her husband have previously been accused of salting away millions of pounds in as many as 36 secret bank accounts in Switzerland, Britain, France and the United States.

The cash is allegedly the proceeds of bribes accumulated during three years in office, between 1983 and 1993.

Government sources say it consists of hard currency and title deeds to hundreds of properties and several businesses — none of which was declared in tax returns. Ms Bhutto denies the allegations.

Ms Bhutto, Mr Zardari and several of their business associates have been under investigation by a Geneva magistrate, Daniel Devaud, for the past six months. He has concluded that there is sufficient evidence to charge Mr Zardari with "using offshore companies in order to receive commissions" from two Geneva-based companies, which won contracts from the Pakistani government when Ms Bhutto was in power.

In his indictment, the magistrate accuses Mr Zardari of using "screen companies to hide the product of crime". Mr Devaud has said he intends to charge Ms Bhutto soon but that he must first resolve technical legal issues relating to her possible immunity from prosecution.

In the documents handed over to Pakistan, Mr Devaud accuses Ms Bhutto of having had access to laundered money in a secret account in the name of the Bomer Company. She used the money in the account, he says, to buy a necklace that he has seized. Officials say it was found in a bank safe deposit box in Geneva.

The necklace was bought by Ms Bhutto in London last August, according to the Swiss magistrate. He says she said partly in cash, and the balance — \$92,000 — was paid by bank transfer from the Bomer account. An official at Pakistan's foreign office, Sarwar Naqvi, said the Swiss document's references to Ms Bhutto "show the utilisation of the accounts in making various purchases, in particular one purchase of a set of jewellery worth \$117,000."

As well as providing the formal charge sheet for Mr Zardari, Mr Naqvi said, the Swiss had handed over "red-glass copies that show 50/50 usage of the accounts". One document has a hand-written entry at the top of a column of figures which reads "AZ 50/50 50". The letters are presumed to stand for the couple's initials.

Ms Bhutto was in Dubai yesterday. Her spokesman in Islamabad, Farhatullah Babar, has rejected the Swiss magistrate's allegations outright. In particular, he challenged the allegations about the necklace. "She did not buy a necklace. She does not have safe boxes where she keeps her necklaces. She wants to know where the Swiss judge got that necklace."

None of the charges framed by the Swiss magistrate has been heard in any court. Ms Bhutto has repeatedly said she would welcome a chance to clear her name. She has often complained that neither she nor her husband have been allowed to see the evidence against them and have

consequently been unable to rebut it.

Pakistan's chief corruption investigator, Senator Salfur Rehman, said the Swiss documents were explosive. "It is a criminal investigation started by the Swiss authorities," he said. "They found a lot of money in the accounts."

Last week, a Pakistani court issued a non-bailable arrest warrant against Ms Bhutto for failing to appear for a court hearing.

The opposition Pakistan People's Party has vigorously denied the charges coming

out of Geneva, which it says are the result of false evidence provided by the Pakistani government. "This regime is single-mindedly moving towards the political victimisation of the leader of the opposition, her family and the PPP," said Raza Rabbani, a senior party leader.

Mr Rabbani said the Pakistani government had provided the Swiss with "forged, false, fabricated and concocted documents" and had thereby deliberately misled the investigating authorities in Switzerland.



Asif Zardari on his way to a High Court hearing yesterday

PHOTOGRAPH BY KHALID CHAUDHARY

### Glittering but doomed dynasty

□ Born June 21 1983, Benazir Bhutto was the eldest daughter of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, chairman of the Pakistan People's Party.

□ In 1973, her father was elected prime minister. Four years later, he was overthrown in a military coup by Mohammed Zia ul-Haq; then hanged, in 1979, on trumped-up charges.

□ Benazir's younger brother, Shah Nawaz, died in mysterious circumstances — possibly poisoned — at his home in the south

of France in 1985, adding to the legend of a doomed but glittering dynasty.

□ Ms Bhutto, who had succeeded her father as party leader, ended her self-imposed exile in 1986 and returned to Pakistan, where she married a prominent businessman, Asif Zardari, whose role in land deals was already the source of rumours that earned him the nickname "Mr 10 Per Cent".

□ In 1988, General Zia died in a mid-air explosion. The

first democratic election for decades was won by Ms Bhutto but her government lasted only two years before it was dismissed on charges of maladministration and corruption.

□ Her political opponent, Nawaz Sharif, assumed power but resigned in 1993 after a constitutional power struggle with the president.

□ Resuming office at the head of a coalition government, Ms Bhutto's period in office was marked by mounting political violence.

In September 1996, her estranged brother, Murtaza, was shot dead by police in Karachi. The investigation into the killing continues.

□ In November, the president sacked Ms Bhutto's government citing corruption. Her husband was detained in connection with her brother's killing.

□ Last year, the Swiss authorities froze the couple's bank accounts and began investigating claims of corruption.

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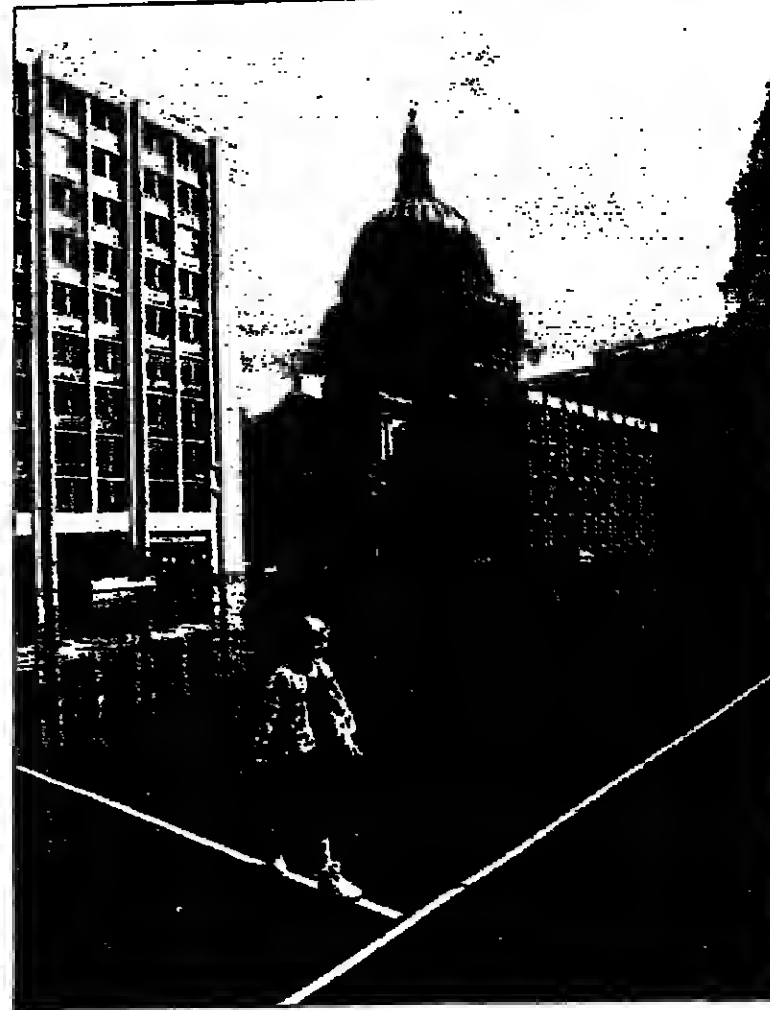
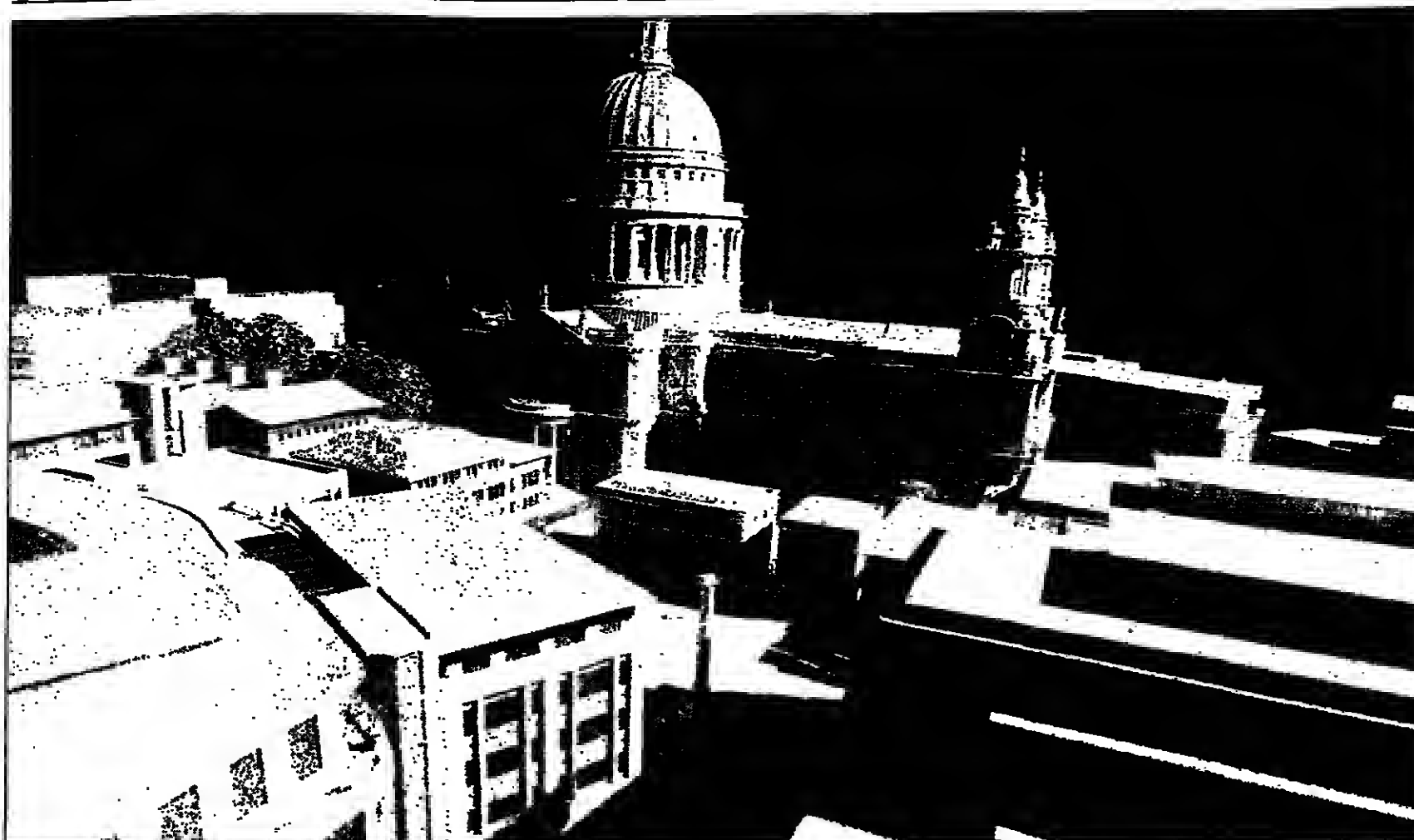
**“She is not sailing into the dark. The voyage is over, and under the dark escort of Alzheimer's she has arrived somewhere. So have I.”**

John Bayley on his wife Iris Murdoch

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AIRTRACK





Left, a model of the 'something for everyone' scheme proposed for Paternoster Square in the City of London, due to be built by 2001 around a copy of a column from the Old St Paul's. Right, a view of the area now

PHOTOGRAPHS GRAHAM TURNER

## Wren masterpiece's new neighbours

After decades of rows, plans to replace Paternoster Square's wind tunnels have been passed

Maev Kennedy  
Heritage Correspondent

THE City of London gave the go-ahead yesterday for the demolition and reconstruction of Paternoster Square, the dismal neighbour of St Paul's, resolving a planning controversy which has rumbled on for almost as long as Wren took to build the cathedral.

The warren of concrete offices and shops among a maze of squares, steps and walkways was built in the 1950s on

one of London's most prestigious sites.

The new scheme, approved by the planners yesterday after 25 years of talking and a 10-year struggle to find a design solution, contains both modern and classical elements, including a pedestrian plaza built around a copy of a column from the Inigo Jones portico on Old St Paul's, which was destroyed in the Great Fire of 1666.

The Blitz destroyed the site's 17th and 18th century buildings, but the square obliterated the medieval street pattern, and blocked

views of the cathedral from the City.

Planners have been discussing how to obtain a more sympathetic scheme since the 1970s. In 1987 an architectural competition resulted in an uncompromisingly modern proposal, which was sunk when Prince Charles called it "deeply depressing".

However his pet scheme, a classical design by John Simpson, damned as feeble pastiche by modernist architects, foundered in the recession.

The proposal passed yesterday for 900,000 square feet of new building, 75 per cent of it offices, was masterminded by the 77-year-old architect Sir William Whitfield — noted as a mediator between modernists and classicists.

Six new buildings designed

by different architects around a pedestrian piazza will restore views of the cathedral and rise in place of the wind tunnel of offices and shops.

Stuart Fraser, chairman of the City Corporation planning committee, called the £350 million scheme, proposed by Paternoster Associates, a global vote of confidence in the future of the City. Most of the five-acre site is owned by the Japanese group Mitsubishi.

The veteran architect, who worked on the restoration of Windsor Castle, produced what has been described as a "something for everyone" scheme.

The row over the largest potential development site in the City has rumbled on through the boom of the 1990s and the slump of the 1990s,

through three owners and three architects. Most of the buildings have been standing empty for years.

All the entries in the international competition in 1987 were damned by Prince Charles as "a stunted imitation of Manhattan". The next proposal incorporated all his favoured classical ideas — porticoes, columns and arcades — and won planning permission in 1993, but fell by the wayside when the site changed hands again.

Yesterday William Hill, of Schroder Properties, advisers to Paternoster Associates, said: "We are delighted by the corporation's decision."

Out goes the monstrous pseudo-classical scheme of shops and offices approved by the Prince of Wales and his acolytes and in comes a

Justice, in a mediocre sort of way, but don't yawn when the last slab of stone is wallpapered into place

By Jonathan Glancey, Design Correspondent

THE battle of Paternoster Square is over. Sir William Whitfield, veteran architect and urban planner, has ridden to the rescue of this sorry quarter of the City of London and planted his colours modestly in the shadow of St Paul's Cathedral.

Out goes the monstrous pseudo-classical scheme of shops and offices approved by the Prince of Wales and his acolytes and in comes a

thoroughly English compromise, a tweedy, strait-laced gathering of six mixed-use buildings to the west and north of St Paul's cathedral.

Sir William's scheme is a model of restraint. Unlike the Prince of Wales's approved design, which was granted planning permission in August 1993 but rejected by its developers, the long-suffering Mitsubishi estates, it will not challenge Sir Christopher

Wren's master work to an artistic duel. It provides three new pedestrian streets and abandons the prince's pet underground shopping mall.

Architects working on the project face an uphill task — how to pour a gallon of concrete, mixed with Portland stone and marble, into a pint of land. At the very end of the 20th century we seem incapable of framing the matronly magnificence of St Paul's with a convincing sweep of self-confident new architecture.

With luck, Paternoster Square will look and feel sort of all right, yet lacking the balls (and swags, dome and cartouches) of brave St Paul's. With even more luck we will learn not to compromise in quite the same way again elsewhere in London and our major cities.

## 2,400 schools near bottom of Ofsted league to be told: do better or else

John Carvel  
Education Editor

THE Government yesterday announced a crackdown on 2,400 mediocre schools to stop them declining far enough for the Office for Standards in Education to classify them as failures.

Stephen Byers, the school standards minister, said Ofsted found serious weaknesses in about 10 per cent of schools in England.

They would be given six months to shape up or face a further Ofsted inspection that could lead to closure or a com-

plete overhaul of management and staff.

Under the current procedures, Ofsted declares about 2 per cent of schools to be failing their pupils and needing intensive care. But there has been no intervention in the rest of schools even if the inspectors identified serious weaknesses.

Mr Byers said it was "clearly a mistake to regard all these 2,400 schools as being in an identical position". Now, the 10 per cent closest to failure would be required to produce an action plan within 40 days.

If one of these weak schools was in an area of surplus

places, the local education authority would be expected to consider closing it. If the LEA decided to keep it open, it would be required to intervene with help — possibly calling in private consultants to aid the school's recovery.

Mr Byers said authorities would be able to appoint governors and take over the budgets of weak schools, as they already do with failing schools. "If they do not think the school is making adequate progress six months after inspection, LEAs should use their additional powers. If they have already used them and the school is still failing to make progress, they should

ask Ofsted to inspect it," he said.

"As we expect failing schools to be restored to health within two years, it should be possible for schools with serious weaknesses to do so within a much shorter period."

As ministers tighten their grip on under-performing schools, they are planning to relax controls on establishments that are meeting their targets. Mr Byers said the high-performers would be given more freedom to "continue without undue distraction", subject to a new "light touch" inspection regime.

The National Union of

Teachers said the crackdown on schools with serious weaknesses could cause an exodus of their ablest teachers, leading to a spiral of decline.

Doug McAvo, general secretary, said Ofsted reports showed that weaknesses in some aspects of a school's teaching existed alongside excellence in others. "The Government's approach creates the danger that the staff providing those areas of excellence will seek positions elsewhere to escape the threat of closure looming over the school."

The threat of closure demoralises staff, disrupts the school community and can

compound problems rather than promote an atmosphere in which they can be overcome," he said.

But Graham Lane, education chairman of the Local Government Association, welcomed the proposal. "It makes sense to act quickly to stop weak schools declining into failure." The association told ministers that the new scheme should apply to the weakest 20 per cent of schools, but it would back the plan to focus on the weakest 10 per cent. Few schools would close because there were rarely enough surplus places in the right place to mop up the spare pupils.

## Nanny charged with murder

Sarah Hall

AN AUSTRALIAN nanny working in Britain was yesterday charged with the murder of a six-month-old baby girl in her care.

Louise Sullivan had previously been charged with causing grievous bodily harm to Caroline Jansen, daughter of a Dutch banker and his French wife, at the family home in Crickwood, north London, in April.

But when the 26-year-old from Sydney appeared before Clerkenwell magistrates, that charge was dropped and replaced by one of murder.

The new charge follows emergence of fresh medical

evidence, the court heard.

The hearing lasted for 10 minutes.

Sullivan, the daughter of an investment banker and financial analyst, had been working for more than a year in London as a nanny. She stayed silent as the charges were read out.

The childminder, who had been registered with two specialist agencies placing Australians, was committed by the court for trial at the Old Bailey on September 1.

She had her conditional bail renewed, with the additional requirement she does not seek employment with children aged 16 or under while awaiting the hearing.

## Is it just a cat, or...?

- 1983: First recorded sightings of big cats on Bodmin Moor.
- May 1992: The Beast of Bodmin hit the national papers for the first time when a farm-hand said he saw a puma-like animal savaging sheep and dogs. Farmers in Devon and Cornwall blame the big cats for killing dozens of livestock — particularly sheep.
- October 1993: The Sun printed a photo of a silhouette of a giant black cat standing on a stone wall looking at a cow.
- December 1993: A farmer caught a long-tailed puma-like animal on video.
- September 1994: The Government said it was taking the sightings seriously. Ministry of Agriculture officials appointed the first official beast-hunter — Charlie Wilson, a zoologist from Paisley.
- 1995: Mr Wilson called a halt to the £8,200 investigation and announced that the beast was nothing more than a domestic cat.

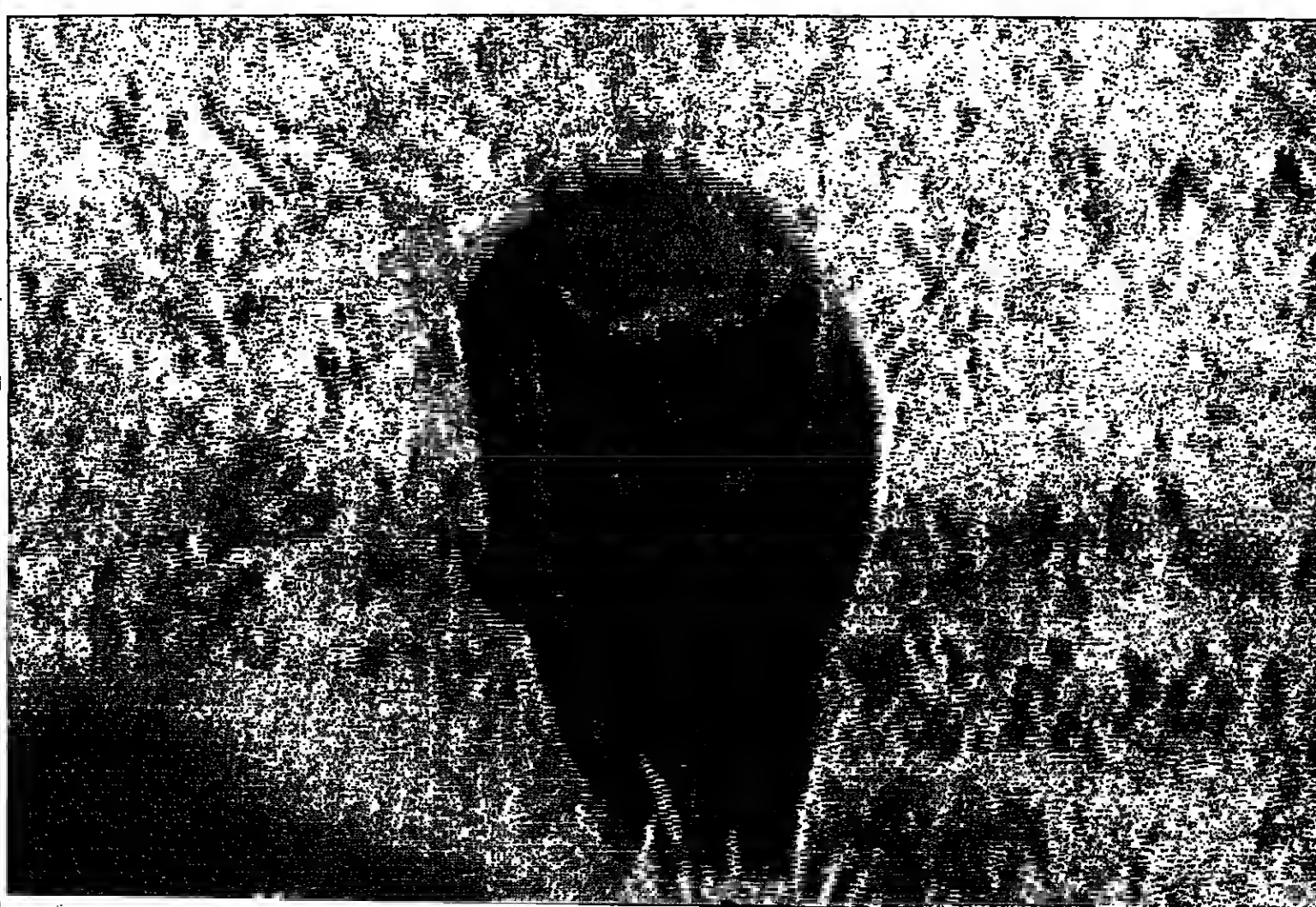
Days later a boy found a skull on the edge of the moor and the MAFF immediately reopened the investigation. London Zoo announced plans for an expedition to trap the Beast of Bodmin. The skull, that of a male leopard, was later revealed to be a hoax.

November 1997: Daily Mail printed a close-up of a puma-like animal taken by an amateur photographer near St Austell, Cornwall.

The cat fitted previous descriptions except it was not black.

At the same time, Newquay Zoo workers found paw prints which supported the existence not just of a Beast of Bodmin, but a whole feline family.

## Video 'evidence' that Beast of Bodmin exists, claims expert



Mystery cat... It may look like an everyday tom, but Mike Thomas of Newquay Zoo suggests creature filmed on moor is a wild species

Geoffrey Gibbs

WILDLIFE experts who have been investigating tales of the Beast of Bodmin Moor believe a 20-second piece of video footage shown to a largely sceptical media audience yesterday provides proof of the existence of the large wild cats.

The amateur film, shot this year in an unidentified moorland location close to Jamaica Inn, south-west of Looe, Cornwall, shows two separate black animals. The first, seen at a distance leaping through the undergrowth, appears to be about 3ft in length.

A much smaller animal captured face-on in a second clip of film looks remarkably like a muscular, black domestic cat. But Mike Thomas, managing director of Newquay Zoo, who has been investigating reports of big cat sightings in Cornwall for the past three years, says the golden eyes and rounded tail have convinced him it is not a domestic cat.

The video clip and a dossier of other evidence have been sent to Elliot Morley, the countryside minister, in an attempt to persuade the Government to renew investigations into the beasts.

The move comes three years after an inquiry by the Government's Agricultural Development Advisory Service concluded that there was no significant threat to livestock and "no verifiable evidence for the

presence of a big cat". The investigation followed almost 50 reported sightings or livestock kills.

Paul Tyler, Liberal Democrat MP for North Cornwall, said people who had sighted the beast had not taken kindly to being portrayed as gullible yokels.

After the report they kept sightings a secret until a group of councillors reported seeing a big cat drinking from a pool near St Austell that information started circulating through again.

The film shown to journalists at Newquay Zoo yesterday was shot after a local man, known only as John, chanced upon what he said was a large black cat leaping into a hedge on the edge of the moor in February.

He regularly observes the spot and contacted the zoo after again spotting the animal and catching it on film. Mr Thomas, who has looked into more than 100 reported big cat sightings, said further sightings of the animal were made by John and the zoo's assistant curator, Matt Casey.

His investigations have persuaded him that there are a large number of wild cats such as pumas, panthers and lynx living wild in the region, but he believes the animals captured on film are a species of wild cat thought to have become extinct last century.

A Ministry of Agriculture spokesman said the minister had not yet looked at the new evidence.



The violent side of girl power

# Gangs put boot into old ideas of femininity

Rory Carroll

**G**IRL power has mutated into a vicious ideology of beatings by female adolescents determined to claim traditionally masculine traits, according to a report published yesterday.

It found bullying, punching, kicking, head-butting and stabbing were becoming acceptable tools in the new femininity, mirroring rising violence among girl gangs.

Emotional responses to the aftermath of fights are also changing with only a quarter of survey respondents feeling remorse and 15 per cent claiming to feel happy, good or high.

The belief that violence does not compromise femininity has spawned the abandonment of hair-pulling in favour of fists, boots and bottles, said Antoinette Hardy, a postgraduate at Loughborough University.

Presenting her research to the Psychology Postgraduate Affairs Group annual conference in Derby, she said the rate of female imprisonment for violent attacks had increased 43.7 per cent between 1991-96 — far outstripping the rise in male imprisonment.

There are nearly 3,300 women behind bars. Prisons say they will be short of 400 places by the end of the year.

More than half of women jailed were in for drug-related crimes. One in seven were convicted for violent assaults. Robbery, theft and handling stolen goods each accounted for another 10 per cent.

Projections suggest that by 2008 adolescent females will outnumber males for violence, said Mrs Hardy.

"It is not just the amount of violence, it is the nature of it too. Ten per cent of the respondents had used weapons. They do not want to be males but they are imitating some male behaviour to force a new identity."

"Girl power to them is not

the Spice Girls. It is about being independent, being able to stand up on their own two feet. If to prove their equality they have to punch someone, then so be it."

Mrs Hardy, aged 42, interviewed 40 girls from the Midlands aged 14 to 18. Eighty per cent had been involved in at least one physical fight, more than two thirds of which were with non-family opponents.

Mrs Hardy concluded the girls were making conscious choices about their identity, citing the need to protect their image and prove themselves better than others.

Social changes over the past few decades encouraged them to seek success and equality. "We have had a woman prime minister, women breaking the glass ceiling in politics, industry. Girls are hearing this. They think: 'We don't have to be passive, we can achieve.'"

Popular culture fuelled the momentum with depictions of strong women, such as cult cartoon figure Tank Girl and the female lead in the Terminator films.

"One respondent said the sequel was much better because instead of wearing dainty dresses she wore muscle tops and worked out every day."

Girl gang attacks have received prominent media coverage, including the Canada Square Gang in Corby, Northamptonshire, some of whom were convicted for the manslaughter of 13-year-old Louise Allen. Three Tynesiders, including a 16-year-old who cannot legally be named, have more than 200 convictions between them.

However, some commentators say the spectre of girl gangs limiting Middle England is a fantasy. More women are being locked up because of harsher sentencing, not because of an increase in female crime, they say.

Profiles of 700 women in prison and hostels confirm that the majority are involved in "survival crime", fraud and theft.



Powerful image... Cult cartoon figure Tank Girl 'fuels momentum to assertiveness'

# Hereditary cancer link discovered

Martin Wainwright

**S**CIENTISTS have proved for the first time that exposure to radiation can increase cancer risk in the next generation. Laboratory tests have isolated a mechanism which could explain child leukaemia clusters like the one at Seascale, Cumbria, close to the Sellafield nuclear plant.

A team at the Paterson Institute for Cancer Research in Manchester has shown that sperm cells exposed to radiation can produce offspring vulnerable to a second "cancer attack". Inherited damage to bone marrow "factory" cells — those which manufacture other cells — in mice, left them more vulnerable to a second carcinogen.

"We cannot use this laboratory research definitively to explain the Seascale cluster, or other incidences of leukaemia in a non-lab environment," said Brian Lord, leader of the team and an expert on the effects of plutonium on the development of blood cells. "But what it does show us, for the first time, is a potential way — a mechanism — in which paternal irradiation can lead to a leukaemia risk for the next generation."

"It shows us how DNA defects can be passed from generation to generation."

Previous attempts to find a link between Sellafield and the striking Seascale cluster in 1990 were widely criticised by other scientists because of data collection mistakes. Major studies of children of radiotherapy patients and families of atomic bomb survivors have also failed to show a pattern suggesting any hereditary pattern in cancer.

The Manchester team is cautious about translating

the laboratory experiments into day-to-day life, because of the highly-controlled test environment, but Dr Lord described the results as showing "a very marked increase in leukaemia after the second cancer attack". Weapons grade plutonium was used for the initial irradiation and second generation mice were then exposed to the carcinogen nitro-urea, which can be a by-product of food preservatives.

The findings, published in the latest issue of the British Journal of Cancer published by the Cancer Research Campaign, were described as an "important step" by the campaign's director, Gordon McVie. He said that it promised to move the medical debate on from the concept of hereditary cancer to inherited vulnerability to an unrelated second attack.

"It is evidence of damage being passed on by fathers in that way," he said. "It is the first evidence that the next generation can be more at risk to a second hit."

Data from the tests shows the leukaemia risk almost doubling in mice with "factory" cells damaged by paternal irradiation. The risk was not passed on maternally in the same way because similar plutonium concentration did not occur in the ovaries.

Prof McVie said that the mechanism complemented work commissioned by the CRC from Leo Klenk, which suggests that clusters like the Seascale example may follow "population mixing" in the Cumbrian case, an isolated community receiving an influx of Sellafield workers. In such cases, unidentified viral infection could form the second attack fingered as the cause of second generation leukaemia by the Manchester experiments.

# Mental patient 'freed to kill'

David Brindle, Social Services Correspondent

**A**MENTAL patient killed his disabled wife 24 hours after a junior doctor decided to send him home from hospital by taxi, an inquiry yesterday reported.

The killing, however, was "wholly unpredictable", according to the leader of the team behind the report on the care and treatment of Peter Horrod.

"There is no simple explanation for this tragedy. It came about as a result of a constellation of factors converging to produce the state of mind which led to Peter ending the life of a woman whom we are sure he loved," said William Armstrong, a lawyer who led the team.

Mr Horrod, who was 61 at the time of the killing in 1996, was detained indefinitely under the Mental Health Act after he admitted on grounds of diminished responsibility the manslaughter of his wife, Brenda, at their home in Hickling, Norfolk.

At his trial, the court heard that Mr Horrod, a painter and decorator, had suffered depression for some time and had twice been admitted to the Northgate hospital, Great Yarmouth.

The day before the killing, he had swallowed an overdose and been taken to the hospital by ambulance. But he had been sent home at 2.30am by taxi.

The next night, he had battered his wheelchair-bound

wife with a hammer before cutting her throat and suffocating her with a pillow.

The court was told that Mr Horrod had been his wife's carer since she had suffered a brain tumour seven years earlier. The caring demands had proved too much for his frail mind.

As in many previous reports on killings by mental patients, the inquiry found shortcomings in Mr Horrod's care and treatment, including a record-keeping and exchange of information, lack of planning and monitoring, inadequate liaison among agencies and insufficient involvement of relatives and carers.

The decision to discharge him had been taken by Louise Santori, a trainee GP who was on a three-month psychiatric placement at the hospital but was the duty senior house officer.

The inquiry report said: "The panel's view was that, had the consultant on duty been contacted, he would have said that Peter should have been at least admitted overnight until a full assessment could be carried out."

Of course, it is recognised that this is a very difficult position for a junior doctor to be in."

David Walker, chief executive of Norfolk health authority, said the report had highlighted "serious inadequacies". Its recommendations would be implemented in full to seek to avoid any repetition.

Mr Horrod's son, John, said he was "horrified" to learn of Dr Santori's inexperience.

# Harmless addicts ☐ Caffeine perks ☐ Lie detectors

**S**O SOCIETY risks turning geeks into mental patients by diagnosing harmless bobbies as addicts, the conference was told. Five hours a day spent watching Star Trek or surfing the Net was enough to label someone an addict needing treatment.

Research found the term was sufficiently powerful to become a self-fulfilling reality when people believed they suffered a clinical addiction and took programmes to kick a banal enthusiasm.

A man who booked into a clinic convinced he was a sex addict was found to be suffering guilt over masturbation. Children were especially vulnerable if well-meaning teachers and parents reinforced the label which could stick with them for life.

The researchers from Nottingham Trent University, Michael Larkin and Richard Wood, said words like chocolate and sexaholic confused people by trivialising addiction. Shows like Noel Edmonds' Telly Addicts aggravated the problem by equating a few hours' daily viewing with addiction.

Mr Wood said: "The concept has gone mad. It's been used as a scapegoat for the 1990s — a moral label for what society feels is and isn't acceptable. Lots of people are being called addicts when they're just engaging in unusual behaviour."

"It's being applied to everything but it's a very loaded term. Labelling people addicts could have a negative impact on their lives. If schools and institutions apply it to chil-

dren it could criminalise them."

"If someone likes watching Star Trek five hours a day what's wrong with that? Addiction can be applied to anything. For example, every morning I get up and put on a pair of trousers. If I don't, I get withdrawal symptoms. Does that make me an addict?"

The researchers' paper, 'Towards Addiction as Relationship', was based on analysis of recent academic research.

**D**RINKING four cups of coffee or tea a day improves attention, accuracy and alertness, according to researchers at Bristol University.

Four cups, with the normal 65mg dose of caffeine, boosts

performance as much as a single 200mg caffeine injection, they said.

Twenty-four male students given either the 200mg dose or four doses of 65mg were found to have the same saliva levels of caffeine. Previous research has centred on the effects of caffeine following a single large dose — equivalent to a person's total daily intake.

Andrew Smith said the effects would become greater as more caffeine was consumed during the day. He added that the negative effects associated with caffeine, including anxiety, involved intakes three times the normal daily dose.

"One of the reasons why we drink it is probably that it is a very good way of restoring impairment produced by doing things over again."

**J**OB interviewers, policemen, judges and lovers will be better able to spot liars if they first observe people telling the truth, researchers will claim today.

Juxtaposing the relaxed tone and mannerisms of honesty beside deception can highlight tell-tale verbal cues or shifts.

Psychologists from the University of Hertfordshire and Nene University College, Northampton, said companies should invite job applicants to an informal brunch and study their chat-chat before interviewing them.

"Get them to talk about things where they're no reason to lie. Then later when you ask them something vital, like previous experience, you'll have a better chance of knowing if they're telling

the truth," said Paul Seager.

Spouses and lovers could also boost lie detection skills by observing partners at moments of candour before broaching a crunch issue.

Examples of truthful behaviour could be of anyone, said Mr Seager. "If you want to check whether person A is lying then it's worth your while studying person B, who is being truthful."

Researchers asked 134 people to watch film clips of people talking about their favourite film and their preferred way of relaxing.

The group shown honest behaviour before viewing the clips detected lies 65 per cent of the time. Those with no preparation scored 55 per cent.

— Rory Carroll

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South Africa's former police minister implicates the past president in government crimes, but claims that resisting communism was vital

# Colleague links Botha to bombing



David Beresford in Pretoria

Adriaan Vlok: Appeals for amnesty in three bombings

**S**OUTH Africa's former police minister, Adriaan Vlok, yesterday told the Truth and Reconciliation Commission that it was a demand for "action" from the country's former president, P. W. Botha, that led to Mr Vlok's decision to blow up the headquarters of the South African Council of Churches in 1988.

Mr Vlok said Mr Botha took him to one side after a meeting of the state security council at the president's official residence in Cape Town and urged him to act against the church building in Johannesburg, which security-force commanders believed was being used by guerrillas of the African National Congress.

The president told him: "You must make that building unusable," Mr Vlok recalled. "He did not say what had to be done. He said something had to be done... I had no doubt that some irregular action had to be taken."

Twenty-one people were injured in the blast, which Mr Vlok subsequently blamed on an innocent social worker. Mr Vlok, who was minister of law and order between 1988 and 1994 — the most bloody phase of the anti-apartheid struggle — appeared before the truth commission in support of his application for amnesty for three covert bombing operations carried out by police on his instructions.

Defending the bombings, he delivered a combined "mea culpa" and "j'accuse" — blaming a "communist onslaught" for crimes committed by the government, while conceding that he and fellow cabinet ministers carried "moral and political" responsibility for excesses committed by the security forces.

Looking like an old-fashioned accountant in a suit and gold-rimmed glasses, the former minister offered a moral balance-sheet which concluded that the country mutated the ideology. "We only had the best of intentions for ourselves, for the rest of South Africans and also for our country."

However, he said, "we planted the tree and we have to accept the moral and political responsibility for its fruits."

As war mentality led to unthinkable acts, 'we got so de-sensitised that this sort of thing became normal'

could count itself fortunate for having been saved from communist dictatorship.

Apartheid was "unbearable and morally indefensible", he said. But the "sour fruits and injustices" were not the intention of those who had for-

mulated the ideology. "We only had the best of intentions for ourselves, for the rest of South Africans and also for our country."

However, he said, "we planted the tree and we have to accept the moral and political responsibility for its fruits."

Actions the security forces



P. W. Botha: Accused of ordering 'irregular action'

## Japanese markets play kingmaker

Jonathan Watts in Tokyo

**T**HE money men are vying with ageing politicians for influence as Japan's ruling Liberal Democrats prepare to choose a new prime minister this week.

The parliamentary electoral backlash that shook Ryutaro Hashimoto from power earlier this month is widely believed to have been triggered by the markets. Long before the LDP's upper house poll defeat, speculators had issued a damning verdict on the prime minister's efforts to revive the economy.

In the two and a half years of Mr Hashimoto's premiership, the Nikkei index of the Tokyo Stock Exchange lost a third of its value, and the yen declined by 50 per cent against the dollar.

According to Paul Migliorato, an analyst at Jardine Fleming Securities Asia Ltd, this poor economic performance distinguishes the latest poll results from the LDP from power in 1993.

"Compared to five years ago, the main difference this time is the role of the markets. They have been far more critical of government policies and the electorate has followed that judgement in the way that it voted."

As a result, political analysts have been monitoring

exchange rate fluctuations and stock price averages almost as closely as opinion polls as they weigh the three contenders for Mr Hashimoto's job. In the running are the foreign minister, Keizo Obuchi, the former chief cabinet secretary, Seiroku Kajiya, and the health and welfare minister, Junichiro Koizumi.

Mr Kajiya, aged 72, who has long favoured radical action to clear up the ailing banking sector, has been the main beneficiary of this attitude. The Japanese currency strengthened by two yen to the dollar with the news that he would stand.

Being able to proclaim himself the markets' favourite has been vital to his campaign because Mr Kajiya, an outspoken and ailing nationalist, has been marginalised by party leaders.

The influence of the markets is apparent in the candidates' economic platforms. All three have abandoned Mr Hashimoto's fiscal retrenchment policies, which they had earlier helped to implement. They promise to deliver what the markets have long demanded: huge tax cuts and rapid action to deal with the problem of bad loans.

"The markets have greatly affected the agenda," said Pelham Smithers, a strategist at ING Barings. "All three candidates have come up with policies that, had they been in

place 12 months ago, would have meant that we wouldn't be in this recession. It is almost as if LDP policy is dictated by the Nikkei."

The ruling party has tried to show the markets and electorate that the leadership selection process is more open and democratic but it has not been an easy task.

The LDP has been in power for 41 of the past 45 years and exemplifies the causes of the economic malaise. It is slow to respond to a crisis, promotes according to seniority rather than merit, and its decision-making process is anything but transparent.

All three candidates promise this will change and have sought to outdo one another in criticising the party they helped shape.

Partly to impress the markets, all three have also hinted that they would appoint private-sector representatives to the cabinet. But party leaders made similar gestures of penitence after the 1993 electoral defeat and soon reverted to their old ways. The same will probably be true this time.

When it comes to the vote on Friday, traditional factional loyalties rather than market forces are expected to ensure that Mr Obuchi, the choice of the party kingmakers, emerges as the winner. How long he stays in his post, however, is likely to depend on the markets.

## Tokyo's Thatcher clone adds colour to grey world

**T**HE most vocal critic of the way the Liberal Democratic Party is selecting its leader is not the opposition, the media or the markets, but an influential party member whose father was the master of the back-room deal.

Writes Jonathan Watts.

Makiko Tanaka, the daughter of the late prime minister Kakuei Tanaka, is a colourful figure in the grey world of Japanese politics. Not only is she an influential woman in a male-dominated environment, she is also outspoken.

"This election will decide whether the LDP can change itself, but the candidates merely give speeches. There is no debate. We need to be more open," she said yesterday as a stream of senior politicians traipsed into her office to canvass her support.

The influence of her father, who built up the party's most powerful faction, is still strong and Ms Tanaka is said to have the support of about 20 LDP legislators. But she has yet to make up her mind.

"It's a terrible choice."

They are all the same. With all their years in office, they must have some views about Japan's future, but they don't express them. We need more energy. We need an explosion."

Such views have earned Ms Tanaka the respect of the public, but the ire of party elders. She has been ejected from the parliament.

Ms Tanaka says the LDP has become more introspective since the upper house poll setback and she thinks the next administration may be short-lived.

"People in the party are always talking about change, but we don't change ourselves so how can we change the country?"

Blunt, energetic and forceful (comparisons to Lady Thatcher are inevitable), she is tipped to become Japan's first female prime minister.

Ms Tanaka says the LDP has become more introspective since the upper house poll setback and she thinks the next administration may be short-lived.

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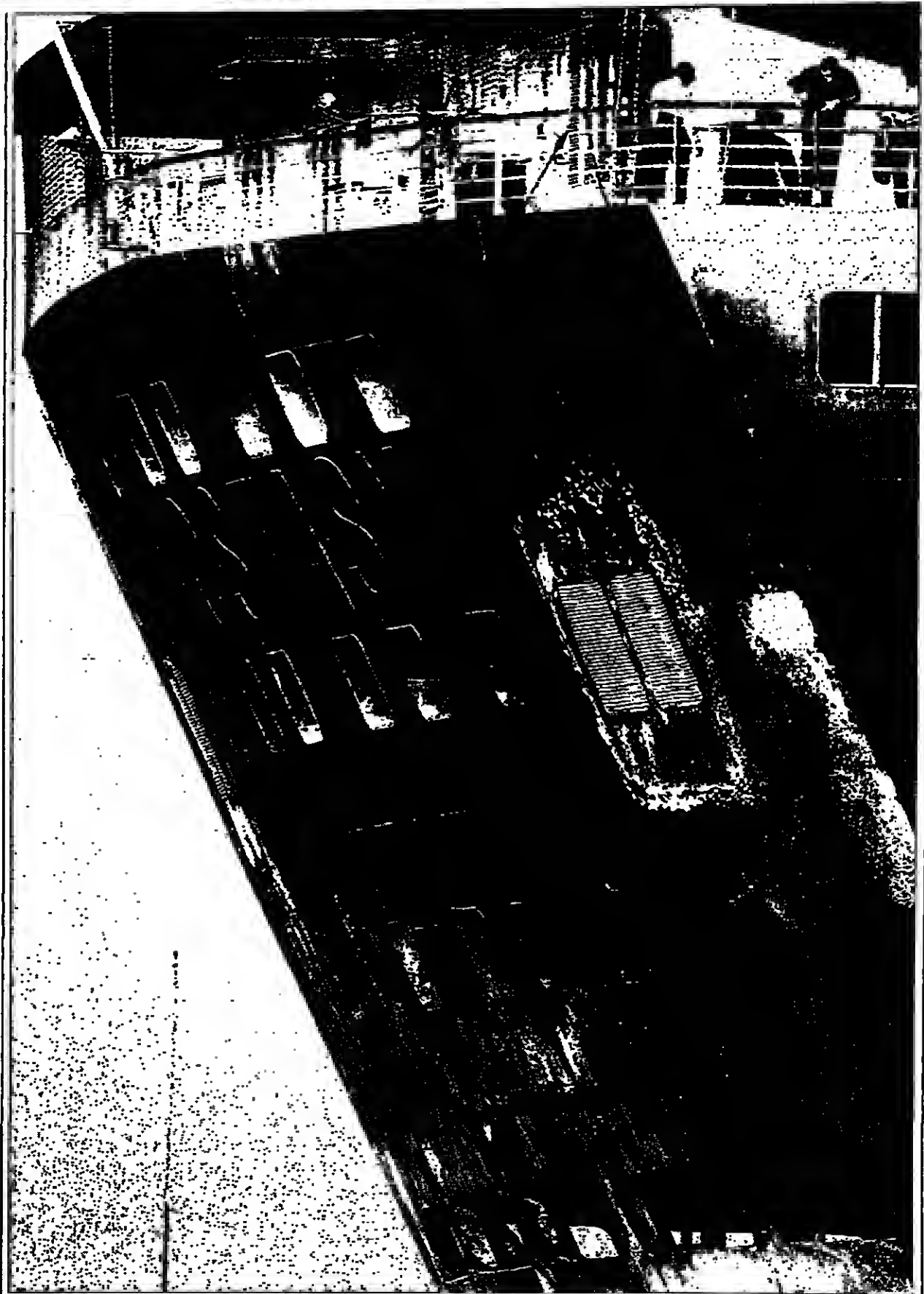
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A fire which engulfed part of the Ecostasy cruise ship on Monday, shortly after it set sail from Miami with more than 2,500 passengers, was yesterday blamed on a welder's spark. The owner, Carnival Corporation, said welding work in the laundry had ignited flint, and an explosive burst then set fire to the outside mooring area. PHOTOGRAPH: HANS DERWY

## Tidal wave toll may hit 8,000

Christopher Ziem in Sydney

**A** YOUNG girl rescued yesterday may be the last person to be found alive in the wake of the devastating tidal waves in Papua New Guinea.

The death toll rests at 800 but fresh estimates suggest that 3,000 to 8,000 could have perished in last Friday's natural disaster.

In the confusion and isolation thousands are still listed as missing, but the flight has switched from evacuation to saving the survivors from disease and injury.

Even minor wounds have become serious, according to an Australian defence force medic, Major Paul Taylor, who is working non-stop at a field hospital in Vanimo.

As a result of the injuries these people have sustained, [the wounds] are very dirty. They are all infected now and we have an awful lot of nasty place. We will build new homes away from the sea. We will live up in the bush."

But with countless bodies still floating in the lagoon there are fears that contaminated water could spread fatal diseases among the survivors who are drifting back to their former homes.

The bereaved have had no time to weep over their relatives or take part in their burial. With bodies decomposing in the tropical heat, and being scavenged by animals, villagers are burying and burning the remains where they find them.

The gravediggers are unable to identify the disfigured corpses and just keep a count.

"We have no time and resources for the dead," said the provincial governor, John Fabian Tombré, from the village of Arop, said: "The people will go back, but to a better place. We will build new homes away from the sea. We will live up in the bush."

Despite the devastation, some villagers plan to return. Fabian Tombré, from the village of Arop, said: "The people will go back, but to a better place. We will build new homes away from the sea. We will live up in the bush."

## Mainland settlers erode identity of Turkish Cypriots

Chris Morris in Nicosia, northern Cyprus

**A** BUST of the founder of modern Turkey, Kemal Ataturk, takes pride of place in the square in Nicosia, an old Turkish Cypriot village. It reminds everyone that without Turkey's support, the self-declared Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus would not exist.

Around the square, groups of men sit outside small cafes. Their Greek Cypriot neighbours have long gone, forced out in the 1960s and 1970s and replaced by settlers from the Turkish mainland.

"Turkey is our motherland," said the mayor, Erdin Sutcuoglu, "but we came here 400 years before the Turkish people who arrived recently. We have a better understanding of modern democracy."

There is general agreement that this is a culture separate from Turkey — a mingling of Turkish and Cypriot traditions. But there is concern in some quarters that this sepa-

rate sense of identity is withering away.

Tens of thousands of mainland Turks have settled in Cyprus since the Turkish invasion in 1974, but the Turkish Cypriot administration insists there is no policy of colonisation.

The settlers play a significant role, providing the Turkish Cypriot leader, Rauf Denktaş, with the backbone of his support. They have little interest in a solution that would see Cyprus reunited under a federal system.

"Mr Denktaş believes that Turkish Cypriots are Turks living in Cyprus," said an opposition politician, Mehmet Ali Talat. "We believe in a distinct identity. But it is becoming harder to maintain."

That is true in all walks of life. Newspapers from the mainland outsell their local rivals, the Turkish lira is the legal tender in northern Cyprus, and telephone numbers and addresses are part of the Turkish national system.

Much of this is done out of necessity — a response to the

Isolation imposed on the north. But some residents believe it goes deeper, and they fear that Turkish Cypriot schools no longer teach enough about their own history and culture.

Despite their misgivings, most Turkish Cypriots remain grateful to Turkey for the 35,000 troops it has stationed on the island and for hundreds of millions of pounds in financial aid.

Turkey and the Turkish Cypriots have promised to move towards closer integration as long as the Greek Cypriot government pursues its application to join the European Union. Many Turkish Cypriots see no way out of the impasse. As the stalemate drags on, the old links with Greek Cypriots get weaker.

"Of course our closest links are with Turkey," said Yurda-kul Cafer, a student in Nicosia. "It is the only country which recognises our right to exist."

The path towards a permanent division of the island is clear, and political flexibility is in short supply.

### News in brief

#### UN staff killed in Tajikistan

Four members of a United Nations observer mission to Tajikistan were ambushed and shot dead in the Pamir mountains, 100 miles east of the capital Dushanbe, UN officials said yesterday. The dead included three military observers from Poland, Japan and Uruguay. — AP.

#### Boost to WHO

As Gro Harlem Brundtland, the former Norwegian prime minister, took over leadership of the World Health

Organisation yesterday, the Rockefeller Foundation said it would provide a \$1.5 million fund to help her recruit outsiders. — New York Times.

#### Menem in U-turn

President Carlos Menem of Argentina said yesterday he would not seek a third term in next year's elections. Only last week the Peronist leader said he would ask his party to seek his re-election by any legal means possible. — Reuters.

#### Palace unearthed

Turkish archaeologists have discovered what they believe to be part of a vast fifth cen-

tury Byzantine imperial palace buried beneath Istanbul's old city, a senior museum official said yesterday. — Reuters.

#### Flood deaths

At least 18 people, most believed to be children, died in east Slovakia when heavy rain on Monday caused several rivers to overflow, the interior ministry said yesterday. — Reuters.

#### Rescue halted

Rescuers trying to recover 11 bodies from Friday's Austrian mine disaster halted work yesterday because of fears of another collapse. — Reuters.

مكتبة الصالح





A water wheel which activates organ music is one of this year's experimental ideas

## Garden revolution has singing flowers and minefield lawns

Paul Webster  
in Chaumont-sur-Loire

THE entrance to the annual garden festival under Chaumont's Renaissance chateau is a flight of plastic armchairs hangs in the air beside an iron staircase that leads nowhere. Nearby, vegetables grow in baskets swirling in a whirlpool, while, behind bushes, an enlarged portrait of a naked woman's body is reflected in a triangular pool.

Visitors to France's most popular summer horticultural display expecting a Gallic version of the Chelsea flower show are likely to turn away in horror at the abstract landscaping spread over more than 20 backyard-sized plots.

Nevertheless, Chaumont's 21st century vision is being imported to Britain: the Millennium Dome and Doncaster's Earth Centre have asked Chaumont to shake up traditional British ideas by over-seeing the creation of experimental gardens for the millennium celebrations, and the BBC has recently filmed Chaumont's most eccentric ideas as an inspiration for garden makeovers in its Homefront series.

In previous festivals, the classic English garden has had its place only when the sweet flowers also sing and

talk. And the traditional close-cropped lawn has suffered many indignities, even once being reduced to a minefield by the regular explosion of smoke bombs.

In the seven years since the festival started, international landscapers have put much invention into the 120 temporary plots, and the experiments being considered for Britain are likely to be even more fantastic.

Jean-Paul Piguet has been in charge of Chaumont's publicly funded conservatory of parks and gardens since a Socialist government revived the art of landscaping, at a standstill in France since the building of Versailles more than 300 years ago. Today, the institution overlooking a broad stretch of the Loire has 500 students working with gardeners from Europe, Asia and the United States.

"The gardens are redesigned every year as temporary showpieces with a maximum investment of 80,000 francs (£8,000) each," Mr Piguet said. "Our experience has earned us consultancies all over the world."

Although crazy, small-scale ideas such as an inspiration for garden makeovers in its Homefront series, the classic English garden has had its place only when the sweet flowers also sing and

This year's exhibition, *Ricochets*, has water as one of the main themes. Gardeners from France, Algeria, Japan, Canada, the US, Germany, Argentina and Italy have produced what can either be seen as humorous horticultural parables or serious attempts to develop new growing methods.

Past designs at Chaumont have been put to practical use, such as a flowering wall that provides a noise barrier along motorways. Other ideas, such as the weeping African tree, the baobab, have proved so popular with the 150,000 annual visitors that they are on permanent display.

"We encourage people who have nothing to do with horticulture, such as choreographers, musicians and artists," Mr Piguet said.

Nothing at Chaumont will be copied at Greenwich or Doncaster, but there are many indications of style. This year's most bizarre creation is based on hundreds of blades of stone, swamped in mist. The most potentially useful is a garden in which nets catch dew to water plants.

Mr Piguet says the challenge of the Millennium Dome is greater because the plots will be bigger than at Chaumont.

"We hope to attract young British landscapers who feel suffocated by the hierarchical system over there and who want to break stereotypes."



The weeping African tree, the baobab, is so popular with visitors to France's garden festival at Chaumont that it is kept on permanent display

PHOTOGRAPH: BRUNO COUTIER

## Mrs Le Pen to stand firm, but not at hustings

Jon Henley in Paris

FOR the well-groomed wives of French National Front politicians, stepping into their disgraced husbands' shoes when the men are barred from holding office is fast becoming a duty. But not for the wife of Jean-Marie Le Pen, who has told France's far-right leader that she is having none of it.

"I absolutely do not want to stand for election — I'm a housewife and not trained in politics," Jany Le Pen said yesterday, quashing a suggestion from her husband that she stand in his place for next spring's European elections.

"He's never talked to me about this idea and I only heard about it from the newspapers. This will no doubt be the subject of terrible discussions, but I can always say no to him — he isn't an ogre. And fortunately, I have all the time I need to convince him."

Mr Le Pen is appealing against an April court verdict that stripped him of his civil

rights for two years for assaulting a Socialist woman politician in a campaign fracas last year. If he loses the appeal, he will not be eligible to stand in the election.

On Monday he told a newspaper that he was considering following the lead set by two of his lieutenants, Bruno Mégret and Jean-Marie Le Chevallier, both of whom put their wives up in their places when barred from standing in elections after being found guilty of campaign finance irregularities.

Mr Le Pen is unlikely to push Mrs Le Pen too hard: his previous wife, Pierrette, was so outraged by his chauvinist comments after their separation that she took spectacular revenge by posing for Playboy.

The current Mrs Le Pen is also determined. "He would be far better off taking one of his daughters," she said firmly. "They know an awful lot more about politics than I do. I've always made a point of never even discussing the subject with him when he comes home at night."

## Clochemerle revisited in French village farce

Jon Henley in Paris

THE sleepy medieval village of Saint-Bonnet-le-Château, population 1,749, is awaiting the results of this weekend's local council elections with more than usual interest.

They should be entertaining: so far, not a single villager has put their name forward for the 19 vacant seats, and the reluctant contenders for mayor are the local priest, the butcher's granny, the postman, and a retired schoolmistress, aged 96.

"It's all a bit of a mess," said Marie-George Bonhé, the council secretary. "The problem is no one wants to stand, and so... voters are free to name whoever they like on their ballot slips. It's heaven for the practical

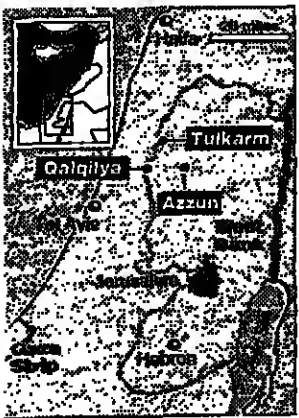
jokers, and no one can do anything about it."

The Loire village's problems began in May when the then mayor resigned because of disagreements with the village's representative on the regional council.

Two weeks later, the entire village executive walked out in sympathy, leaving Saint-Bonnet-le-Château — home to two leading boule manufacturers — rudderless and forcing the regional prefect to announce new elections.

"It's a classic small village situation," said a spokesman at the prefecture in St-Etienne. Referring to the famous French novel, he added: "I hesitate to use the word *Clochemerle*, but you can't really avoid it. There's clearly some kind of feud going on, everyone's digging in their heels."

## Life on a toxic bomb



Chemical waste is being shifted to Arab areas. But Julian Berger in Azoun says Israelis also risk poisoning themselves

IF IT were not for its three toxic waste dumps, Azoun would be a pleasant enough place — a hilltop cluster of pale stone houses like many old Arab towns on the West Bank.

But the fumes from the nearby dumps make eyes and throats itch after just a few hours. For the 8,000 people who live here, they are potentially lethal.

Dr Abdul-Rahman Abu-Hanieh has tended to the health of the local people for the past 11 years. During that time he has witnessed a tenfold increase in the incidence of cancer — mainly leukaemia, prostate cancer and Hodgkin's disease. He has no doubt about the cause.

"It's the dumps. The Israelis don't care what they unload there — all sorts of chemicals. Who knows what. In all the other villages I go to fill in death certificates there are maybe one or two cases of cancer. Here there are 10 or 11 a year," Dr Abu-Hanieh says.

If he is right, Azoun's dead are victims of its political geography. The town is only 20 miles from the industrial conurbation of Tel Aviv, but since it lies in the occupied West Bank, under army jurisdiction, Israeli waste-disposal laws are not fully enforced. So every few nights trucks appear

from the west and empty their cargo on Azoun's doorstep.

Local Palestinians dump their domestic rubbish there too, compounding the problem. But Israeli and Palestinian environmental activists say almost all the toxic chemicals dumped in Azoun can be traced back to Israeli industries. "Our town has become a dustbin," the mayor, Khasan Abdul-Latif, complained.

He brought the town out to protest at the dump-site yesterday, but there is little more he can do. His authority runs only as far as the municipal boundaries. The waste is dumped just beyond, in areas still under Israeli rule.

It is a pattern repeated in the nearby Palestinian towns of Qalqilya and Tulkarm — forming a triangle of ecological desolation.

And the effects could rebound on Israel itself. Qalqilya and Tulkarm are on top of the most important water aquifers in the region, said Mohammed al-Hamidi, director-general of the Palestinian Environment Authority (PEA). "It supplies both Israelis and the Palestinians. If it is polluted it will affect everyone."

At one of Azoun's dumps, 20 yards from a gateway marking the entrance to the town, the waste heap is a kaleidoscope of unnatural colours — like the burnt orange-black of



Munzir Ayash outside the Gishuri Industries pesticide factory which pumps clouds of waste over Tulkarm's Palestinians

PHOTOGRAPH: BRIAN MCBURNEY

potassium iodide, set off against the blinding white of methylenes and organo-phosphorous crystals. An analysis by the PEA found more than 20 toxic compounds at the site.

Mohammed Abu-Hanieh, a local farmer and a distant relative of the doctor, recited a long list of relatives who had died of cancer in recent years, including his wife, brother and cousin. "It is a crime," he said, casting his eyes down to the strangely-hued dust beneath him.

Israel's environment ministry rejects suggestions that waste-dumping is tolerated in Palestinian areas. "From time to time we discover that some companies do it and we fully co-operate with the Palestinian authorities to take those responsible to court," Shmuel Brenner, a senior ministry official, said. There have been a handful

of arrests recently, but the dumping continues, driven by hard economics. According to Mr Hamidi of the PEA, it costs about \$40 to hire a driver (usually a Palestinian) to dump a five-ton truck of waste chemicals in the West Bank. To dispose of the same volume at Ramat Hovav in

the Negev desert (Israel's only approved dump site for toxic chemicals) costs more than \$7,000.

"Dumps are being closed in Israel, increasing the incentive to go and dump on the West Bank," said Gideon Bromberg, the Israeli director of the environmental action

group, Ecopeace. Environmentalists say the West Bank is suffering the overspill effects of a profound Israeli ecological crisis.

The seriousness of the situation was brought home last July, when a bridge over the polluted Yarkon river collapsed during an interne-

territories. As Israel tries to curb pollution, whole factories are on the move to cheaper, under-policed sites.

Mr Hamidi said: "There is an ongoing process of transferring dirty industries, like aluminium, asbestos, paint-making and pesticides, from Israel, where there is public resistance to them, to the West Bank."

The Gishuri Industries pesticide factory is a vivid example. After Israeli environmental protests, it moved about 10 years ago from Tel Aviv to Tulkarm, where it now pumps a daily cloud of waste products over the Palestinian neighbourhood 50 yards away.

A few hundred yards down the road, an Israeli-run glass-fibre factory is also belching thick smoke. Local appeals to the firms to get filters or high chimneys have been ignored.

Munzir Ayash, who owns a car-parts shop across the road

from the pesticide factory, is painfully thin and suffers from frequent bouts of dizziness and nausea, despite a wide range of pills prescribed by his baffled doctor.

"When the factory is operating, you can't smile, or laugh or open your mouth at all. All the local people have asked Gishuri to get a filter or higher chimneys, but they always refuse. They treat us like animals," Mr Ayash said.

Employees at Gishuri Industries refused to talk. At the ministry, Mr Brenner said he had heard there were environmental problems concerning the factory and others around Tulkarm, and that a programme of action would soon be launched.

The PEA's Mr Hamidi will believe it when he sees it. He views the ministry as well-meaning but relatively powerless on the lawless roads of the territories.

## Scientist moves 'Mt Sinai' to Israel

Julian Berger

THE 1,600 year-old debate over the true location of the biblical Mount Sinai reignited yesterday after a celebrated Italian archaeologist claimed to have discovered persuasive evidence that the mountain peak where Moses received the Ten Commandments lies in Israel's Negev desert.

Christian tradition, since the 4th century AD, has placed Mount Sinai at Jebel Musa in Egypt's Sinai desert. There are more than 20 other candidate mountains, hills and piles of rock.

But Emmanuel Anati, the director of Italy's Camuno Centre of Prehistoric Studies, decided yesterday that his team's recent discovery of a bronze-age altar has convinced him that Mount Karkom, in the Negev, is the true Mount Sinai.

"A few months ago we found a stone tumulus [ritual pile]. When we excavated down to the bedrock, we found a large rectangular black stone. On top was a hand-carved white stone in the shape of a half moon," Professor Anati said.

He believes the half-moon is a symbol of the ancient Mesopotamian god, Sin, after which he thinks Mount Sinai was named.

In earlier excavations, Prof Anati's team found a stone tablet, carved in the third millennium BC, and divided into 10 partitions.

He also points to the remains of a 12-pillared temple at Mount Karkom's foot and a cave at the summit, both mentioned in biblical accounts of Mount Sinai. Israeli archaeologists are very sceptical. Professor Moshe Kochavi from Tel Aviv University told an Israeli newspaper: "It's true that Anati found a holy mountain in the Negev, but the age of this site is too early."

Ami Mazar, from Jerusalem's Hebrew University, said yesterday: "There are 25 places where Mount Sinai is supposed to have been. Now we have 26. It's not archaeology. It's para-archaeology."



# Comment

## Diary

Matthew Norman

**A**LTHOUGH Jack Straw's general satisfaction rating soared in one quarter of London his name is mud. On Monday night, Pimlico school parents passed a vote of no confidence in Jack (their chair of governors) by 73 to five after he defied their wishes by backing a council plan — to demolish the school building, sell a quarter of the site to a property developer, and rebuild it within four years. Parents are also angry at Jack's attendance record. He has popped in once in 18 months, and then only for his re-election meeting, at which he assured them: "We will not sign up to plans unless we are convinced that they will carry the support of parents." With this plan, the parents voted 155-6 against. Although Jack holdily refuses to resign, it seems his nerve may be going. When Tony Benn turned up on Monday for a word with him after the meeting, Jack slipped away through the service entrance and vanished.

**F**ANS of etiquette rejoice to learn that Harriet Harman's grasp of manners is improving. On yesterday's Women's Hour, when Jenni Murray speculated that she might get sacked in the reshuffle, Harriet stuck it out gamely. Last time she went on the show, she walked out when this question was raised (she claimed to be late for a Cabinet meeting). This is real progress. Well done, Harriet!

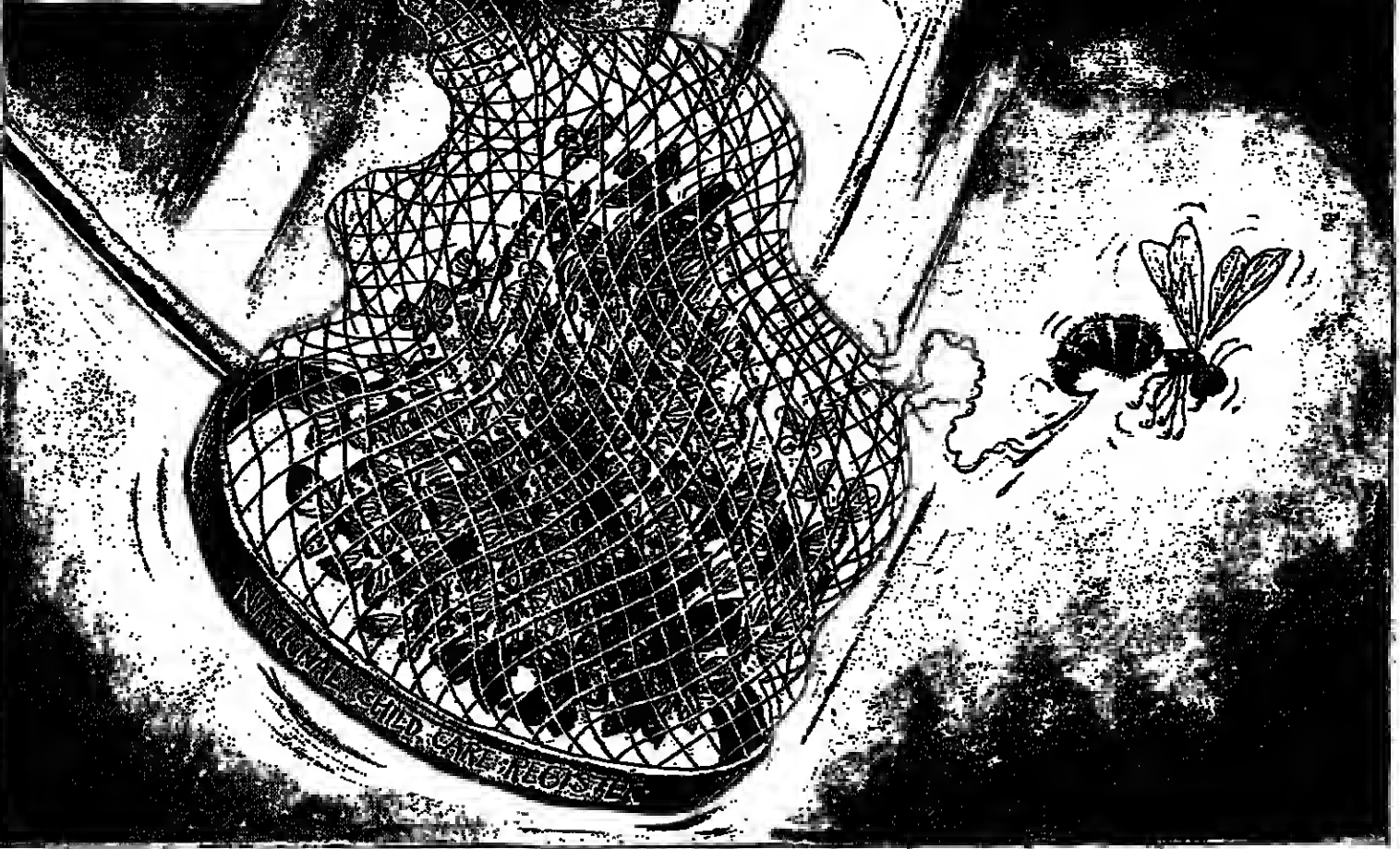
**I**AM strangely tempted by an offer in the Express, "Holiday Inn break from only £15," reveals the headline. "If you simply want to get away from it all, and relax and unwind in warm and friendly surroundings, one of the many Holiday Inn hotels throughout the UK would be the perfect choice." How true. The one difficulty is choosing between all those "specially selected for short breaks away". Leeds City Centre looks good... but no, no, when it comes to relaxing and unwinding, you can't beat London Heathrow.

**T**HE search for July's PC Brains moves to West Yorkshire, where traffic cop Paul Feather has shown initiative. While chauffeuring a senior officer who was giving a TV interview about "high occupancy" lanes (the ones reserved for cars with passengers) the PC heard an alarm from a nearby factory. He diverted the car at once and, on arrival, he saw smoke seeping under the door, he rang the fire brigade, broke down the door and doused the flames. Only then, as the smoke cleared, did PC Feather realise that he was in the area set aside by a meat company for the smoking of its bacon. Helms off, PC Brains!

**R**OBERT White sends a fax wondering "if you caught the gruesome visage of David Mellor in BBC2's The Midnight Hour last night?" No, Robert, I did not. Life is quite painful enough. Robert seems to feel that Mellor's opening line — "John Prescott — does he matter?" — is a strong case of kitchen utensils lacking self-awareness about their own pigmentation, and he may have a point. The good news, for those who agree, is that Mellor's tenure on the Midnight Hour and his Radio 5 football show are coming to an end. After Melvyn Bragg was fired from Start the Week because of his ennoblement by New Labour, it's inconceivable that Mellor, with his much closer links to the government — will be allowed to go on presenting topical programmes.

**I**N Millan, professional stripper Roberto Pamplona is recovering after sustaining injuries during his act. He had been booked to perform at a hen night. FRM reports, but mistak only went through the adjacent door and disrobed instead for the annual meeting of the pressure group Catholic Mothers Against Pornography. The Mothers watched for a while in stunned silence, before violence erupted that left Si-gnor Pamplona in hospital with a broken nose and what are, perhaps tactfully, described as "multiple injuries".

## Butterfly Net.



## Just an old green coat and the red flame of socialism. It's history

Jonathan Freedland



**M**ICHAEL FOOT is about to have the last laugh. Tomorrow he will celebrate his 85th birthday, looking forward to what might be a final act of defiance — a marvellous little joke at the expense of his critics.

Next Wednesday, at the Speaker's House, assorted grandees of British politics will gather for the unveiling of a new portrait of Foot, the man who led the Labour Party when, as Tony Blair says, it was incapable of being led. As the curtain draws back, there should be a sudden gasp of recognition, then a snigger — followed, I hope, by a warm round of applause. For Foot is shown standing on one of the grandest monuments of Tredegar, surveying the Welsh constituency he inherited from Aneurin Bevan, wearing a green overcoat. And not just any coat — but that Coat, the one depicted as a "donkey jacket" when Michael Foot wore it at the Cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday, 1981.

His enemies said it was a disgrace, the leader of the Opposition looking like an out-of-control, out-of-control, out-of-control. Pictures of the white-haired, grand old man of British socialism laying a wreath in that coat would be shown again and again, resurfacing as one of the defining images of Foot's ill-fated stewardship of the Labour Party.

Most politicians would have incinerated the garment years ago, hoping to rid themselves of its associations. But here's Foot, journalist, scholar and lifelong radical, a man whose life and career has spanned the key events of

the 20th century, standing in his Hampstead garden on a fine summer's evening, bowing to the combined pressure of his wife and a visiting reporter and agreeing to put it on once more.

It's hard to imagine a less pompous, less vain, more modest man. Even now, aged 85, his humour is impish and self-deprecating. He explains that he has a soft spot for Tony Blair, a man whose talent he spotted back in 1982. "My view is that anybody who joined the Labour Party at the time I was leader can't be accused of being an opportunist," he says, a smile in his voice.

The cadences are still the same, the sharp breaths between clauses, the sudden upward soaring of the sentence, ensuring the last word ends on a high note. He still travels by bus, still follows the news, still reads and writes — in longhand. His left eye is all but ravaged now, the veins on his head purple and visible, and when he inscribes a book he holds the page close to his face. But his wit is as sharp as ever and his spirit still fired with optimism. His latest project is a book on the cause he has championed his entire life: the Bomb. Rather brilliantly, it's called Dr. Strangelove, I Presume.

It's good that he is to be recognised with a Commons unveiling. There had been talk that the Government was keeping its distance from the man who put the old into Old Labour. In fact, Foot has been treated graciously. He was invited to lunch at Chequers just last weekend: he couldn't make it because he and Jill Craigie, his wife of nearly 50 years, were celebrating his birthday with a trip to Paris.

He has some misgivings, of course. Jill believes Tony Blair worked "magic" in Northern Ireland where he showed "an iron will". Michael agrees, but whispers that he voted for John Prescott in the 1994 leadership contest. ("I think he's a fine chap.")

He's troubled by rumours that the Cabinet convenes for the most cursory meetings, with little or no discussion. "If they're not having proper arguments in the Cabinet, that's a big mistake." As he is a scholar of Hazlitt, Paine and Byron, his abiding concern is the free airing of ideas — and a good row.

Above all, Michael Foot worries that today's Labour leadership is becoming a stranger to its past. "The greatest deficiencies arise from their failure to understand or appreciate the his-

tory of the party. The history of the party is very great, you see. At the most critical moments in the century, the Labour Party saved the country."

And he should know. Foot was active in politics when the issue of the day was appeasement. He was a leader writer on Lord Beaverbrook's Evening Standard, dined round the magnate's table with Winston Churchill, Aneurin Bevan and H G Wells. He was elected in 1945, in the Cabinet under Wilson and Callaghan. He has been both a player and an observer of the entire century.

Today's Labour Party can learn from all that. They can admire the integrity which has led Foot, uniquely among Labour politicians of his generation, to stay out of the unelected House of Lords. They can respect the candour with which he admits he wasn't "much good" as Labour leader and that he "wrecked the lives" of the MPs who lost their seats. They can learn from the humanity that makes him say his greatest regret of the 1968 defeat was not his own public humiliation but the sight of trusted old friends and colleagues left "down and out... and broke". And they can also recall that, long before New Labour, it was Foot who first brought order to the party, launching the war against Militant.

It is a grand life, powered by what Foot once called "the red flame of socialist courage". Labour should show some of that fire, loudly declaring that it is proud of Michael Foot and its own history. That would be a fitting way to say happy birthday.

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Above all, Michael Foot worries that today's Labour leadership is becoming a stranger to its past. "The greatest deficiencies arise from their failure to understand or appreciate the his-

level, where points of fundamental or wide-ranging importance about human rights may have to be decided, there is a strong case for adding to the judges of the final court three non-lawyer members, drawn from a panel of persons with knowledge and understanding of society and of human rights in the broad sense. That would ensure

would best be appointed from a list to be drawn up, after wide consultation, by an independent Judicial Appointments Commission. Second, to assist the courts, and also to assist individuals in asserting their rights, there could be established an independent Human Rights Commission, along the lines of the very successful Equal

Opportunities Commission and Commission for Racial Equality that were instituted by Labour governments. The Commission would monitor the operation of the Human Rights Act; provide advice and support for those who wish to assert their rights; and, where necessary, itself institute cases to confirm or clarify particularly important issues.

The Commission would thus act as a focus for human rights activities and ensure that the protection of the public was not left to the accident of individual enthusiasm or willingness to pursue cases.

This is an extract from "The Legal System and Law Reform Under Labour" by Lord Irvine, published in "Law Reform for All" by the Society of Labour Lawyers (Blackstone 1996). He was then Shadow Lord Chancellor. He is now the Lord Chancellor.

## Mind the children

Polly Toynbee



**T**HERE'S a sniff of dangerous dogs in the air. It goes like this: a nasty case hits the front page, the papers seize the issue in their rabid jaws and shake it fiercely until some wretched politician is sent out there to promise "Something must be done!" Thus a bad law is rushed through and dogs of dubious pedigree are expensively kennelled at Her Majesty's pleasure for years, while the courts argue over their lineage. Or the stalking laws are rushed through in a single day, but due to their bad drafting, they are used almost exclusively against animal rights protesters instead of spurned lovers.

Now there's a danger that panic over killer child-minders may provoke more pointless legislation and expensive bureaucracy, to very little avail. Louise Woodward, killer nanny, first sparked calls for new laws. This week the cry has gone up again over Helen Stacey, who murdered a five-month-old baby and hid the truth of her past.

The story played big everywhere, with acres of space in some tabloids. Eighty children are murdered every year, so why did this story strike such a chord? Because it is designed to terrify every working mother, that visceral gut-wrench that makes parents want to run home right now, or swear they'll get a CCTV fitted inside the teddy bear tomorrow.

Helen Stacey was a registered child-minder, but she managed to hide her first married name, under which she had three children taken into care and many convictions for prostitution. Oddly enough, it was the prostitution hit that seemed to shock reporters most. (Whatever happened to the hooker with the heart of gold? Why should a long-retired prostitute necessarily be a bad child-minder?)

**S**O NOW more and more calls for regulation and registration is being called for on all sides. It's Something Must Be Done time and Harriet Harman has been pushed out there to promise it.

As it happens, child-minders are one of the most regulated sectors of child care. There are 96,000, and all are registered with their local authorities, with an annual home visit and at least some training. All undergo police checks for criminal records, including every adult in their household.

Parents, of course, are not checked or regulated at the birth of their child. Perhaps they should be. In recent figures, of the 80 or so murdered children in 1996, 60 were killed by parents, and only 10 by someone else — "known to the child", very rarely — if ever — a carer. A child is more likely to be struck by lightning than die at the murderous hands of a registered minder. No matter, Something Must Be Done.

The 100,000 nannies looking after children are not regulated at all, because (until Louise Woodward) the very word seemed to guarantee a Mary Poppins employed by the middle classes — no need for regulation there. The word child-minder, on the other hand, implies lower class riff-raff in a louse-infested high rise, a chain-smoking mother of 10 who would tie toddlers to the furniture if inspectors didn't come round.

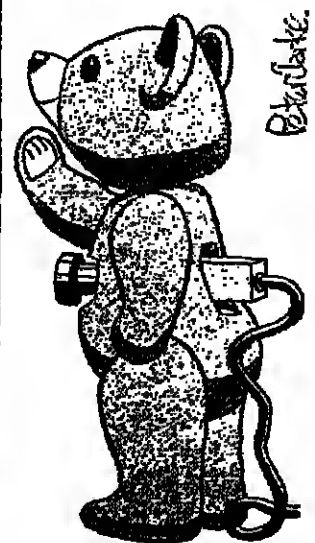
As it happens, nanny Louise Woodward, on her gap year before university, and child-minder Helen Stacey, fallen woman, are both precise stereotypes of the popular image of the two classes of child carer. But that's just a coincidence. These days the middle classes use child-minders, and nannies aren't what they were. Many people employ live-in nannies with no experience because they're cheaper, while child-minders are often far more professional.

I shudder when I think of some "nannies" I have left my children with. One hit my son so hard she left her hand-print on his backside for a week. Another, unbeknownst, took my daughter in her huggy into a dark and seedy pub all day every day, where her boyfriend worked behind the bar. After all, how are you to know what nannies and minders are like on the basis of an interview and a reference that means nothing? No doubt Louise Woodward said: "Oh yes, I love children." No police check or register would have saved the baby in her care, nor would it make any bad and unkind nannies I have known one jot better.

For all the fear, children are not being serially murdered and battered by their minders (though they are by their parents). If child death is the real concern, look to the roads where hundreds are killed or crippled. How can you predict who will shake a baby to death in a moment of utter frustration? Will every Saturday night baby-sitter have to be police-checked? Cunning people will always evade checks and forge references, so registration may be a false reassurance to parents' eternal vigilance.

**B**UT THERE are things a government can do to reduce the risk to children, whoever is looking after them. Children are in danger wherever parents, minders or nannies are lonely, depressed, under stress and isolated. Looking after young children all day alone can be an awful job — and one reason parents choose to go out to work.

The National Child-minding Association is pushing for networks of drop-in centres, play groups, and family centres with toy libraries, child care training and early excellence centres. Bringing together lonely mothers,



Will every Saturday night baby-sitter have to be police-checked?

minders and nannies is the best guarantee of safety for children, where other eyes watch what care they get, and friends offer help when tempers fray. The new Sure Start programme in deprived areas is the first step.

When the DFE consultation period on regulation of day care comes this month, no doubt we shall end up registering every kind of nanny and baby-sitter. It won't do much harm, even if it doesn't do much good. Now that we have a government that is going to provide or fund child care for the first time, they will need to be seen to be ensuring child safety.

But what matters much more is genuine quality in child care — and the new child care tax credits will help hugely. Until now it's been officially regarded as something women do by instinct. And the stupider, less educated or trained the woman, the more "maternal". It's disgracefully badly paid, and the lowest status work there is. There will need to be a new professionalisation — but registration and police checks on their own won't achieve that.

Meanwhile, I suspect all this fanning of mothers' fears is an unconscious conspiracy to frighten them back to the hearth where they belong — and where, incidentally they are rather more likely to kill their children than the minders who care for them now.



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## 'The Thatcher memoirs are not an accurate account of my sacking'

Lord Gilmour, Letters

## Crime need not pay

Whitehall has woken up

SUNSHINE finally broke through the dark, scowling clouds of rhetoric that have blocked an intelligent debate about crime. Belatedly, Labour honoured the second half of its famous law and order promise yesterday: "tough on the causes of crime". In a bold move, it published a research report which demolished the most common myths about crime control. The simplistic solutions propagated by the Howard school of populist politics — more prison, longer sentences, more bobbies on the beat — do not work. Crime reduction needs a far more focused approach. It is not just the Conservatives who should be cringing from the blunt facts — drawn from national and international studies over the last 40 years — but Labour, too. They were equally guilty of distorting the debate by ducking crime's complex causes in their search for simplistic solutions and votes. Remember Jack Straw's "zero tolerance", even with squeegee merchants, winos and beggars? Forget it, if you mean "tough policing". All that will achieve is an alienated community, which will reduce the effectiveness of the police.

Yesterday the Home Secretary repented. Just as the health service needed to aspire to evidence-based medicine, so the Home Office should pursue evidence-based policing. The age of rationalism approaches. John Stuart Mill should be alive and watching. His heart would have melted at the press briefing by Chris Nuttall, head of

Home Office research, who was still "stunned" after so many years of his team's work being ignored, by the ministerial endorsement of an evidence-based crime reduction programme. It is time for optimism, not pessimism.

We are now entering our third and most promising phase of modern crime control. First came the negative "nothing works", a demoralising and fatalistic era which lasted for over two decades. Then came "prison works", Michael Howard's simple-minded, one-club approach to policy-making, which both major parties embraced despite the huge cost implications: every one per cent fall in crime needed a 25 per cent increase in the prison population. Finally we arrived at a crime reduction strategy, which incorporates a succession of successful schemes, ranging from early year intervention to literacy programmes for old lags. It is not a soft liberal cop-out. It includes targeting high profile repeat offenders and "hot spot" criminal areas, and special support for victims. But it also involves long-term schemes, such as the High/Scope Perry preschool programme in which both children and parents are given more support. American research suggests for every \$1 invested some \$7 is saved in future criminal costs. Prevent a child from dropping out of school through early preparation and not only will there be huge benefits to the child but to society as well.

The researchers are frank. Some findings are firmer than others. American schemes may not be as effective here as over there. But the report is packed with sufficient successful British schemes to give even the most pessimistic sceptic some grounds for optimism. British Safer City anti-burglary drives have achieved up to a 30 per cent reduction in levels of crime at a fraction of the cost of prison. Ensuring all police forces

pursue such policies will require both stick and carrot. But at least ministers were unambiguous in their message: the police must become more effective. They will also need the support of other services like schools, housing and social services. That will need careful co-ordination. But best of all — why can't we have a bipartisan approach? Here is a hard-nosed, cost-effective package which high Tories, if they're sensible, will endorse.

## Lockerbie law

It's time to take the neutral option

THE BREAKTHROUGH which seems to be approaching in the case of the Lockerbie disaster, as reported by The Guardian yesterday, comes nearly 10 years after the crash of Pan Am flight 103. It could, and should, have come long before. It means that Britain and the US will finally agree to accept a trial of the two Libyan suspects neither in Scotland nor in the US but on neutral territory — although still under Scottish law. Libya already seems to have agreed to this plan. Yesterday the Government sounded far more flexible than before in saying it was exploring various options. Britain naturally wishes to defend the integrity of Scottish justice, but this is the only option which can move matters forward.

The objective all along should have been — to quote the words used yesterday by the Prime Minister's spokesman — to find a solution which "will bring justice to the families" of the 270 victims of the crash. The tragedy has been compounded because this objective became subordinate to a broader one of isolating Libya. There was never the slightest prospect that the Gadhafi regime would surrender the two suspects to a

British or US court. A Security Council resolution ordering it to do so, passed a year after the allied victory in the Gulf war, could too easily be presented as Western arm-twisting. Most of the families have long made their priorities clear: it is to see the evidence against the two Libyans tested in a court of law. Offering a trial in a neutral country will achieve this aim — or test Colonel Gadhafi's credibility by taking him at his word. "If they don't want it," he said last year, "they [the US and Britain] will be the losers." A refusal now would place Gadhafi in the same situation — and allow others to draw their own conclusions.

As so often happens with unsolved catastrophes, the Lockerbie case has spawned a number of rival theories as to who was really responsible. Some of these are far-fetched, others raise real and worrying questions. An early official view with some plausibility linked Syria rather than Libya to the terrorist bomb. There is a complicated sub-plot involving the CIA and drugs deals. There are allegations that warnings were ignored: there are doubts about some of the scientific evidence amassed against the two Libyans. Only one thing is certain — not all these theories can be correct. But the best chance of reaching the truth, and of assuaging some of the grief, is to take the next step — if Washington and London can grit their teeth and pursue the neutral road.

## Free houses

End the farce of last orders

THERE'S a lot of talk about this Government being Cromwellian and nannyish which sits oddly with its hedonistic, "Cool Britannia" line. Christopher Haskins' report on pub licensing gives New Labour a grand

chance to show its true — liberalising? — colours. Tony Blair is said to want his place in history. It's easily done: let him be the man who does away with Lloyd George's first world war legacy by abandoning Britain's restrictive and complicated alcohol laws. There are no longer munitions workers to worry about. In 24-hour 21st century cities, "last orders" are a hopeless anachronism. Licensing laws have, it's true, already been half-demolished by club culture — and the male mystery of what goes on inside pubs has been dispersed by the installation of clear glass windows. The Government should find the legislative time to finish the job, rationalise the law and liberate the consumption of drink. If wine bars or the George (or the Rat and Ferret as it's increasingly likely to be called) want to stay open all hours, let them. The rules on noise and nuisance won't stop applying, because the big brewers have a reputation to keep up they will be careful to avoid giving neighbours offence. Local authorities have a drawl of controls on health, safety and change of use and could absorb the antiquated work of licensing magistrates.

The only reason the Government should hesitate is fear that liberal opening hours will lead to abuse. But evidence from abroad does not support the contention. What it does show is that drinking styles and attitudes matter more than bar hours, a point well made yesterday by the Methodists. What causes crime and nuisance is binge drinking or drinking with intent to commit mayhem. Should confusing prohibitions on under-18s remain in place? As it stands the law allows children aged 14 to drink alcohol bought by parents yet says a 17-year-old (who the Government would allow to have sex, hetero and homo) cannot buy a beer. A case surely for more good work by Mr Haskins "better regulation" team.

## Letters to the Editor

Bell, Ford and attractive men

YOU have misled your readers in claiming Lady in Cream chimes with Bell, July 21 that Martin Bell MP "had misquoted Kipling all through the general election". My father's consistent and aggressive misquoting was actually from G K Chesterton's *The Secret People*, a point that I had genuinely thought definitively established by Professor Anthony King in his study *Why Labour Won — At Last* (in New Labour Triumphs: Britain at the Polls, ed. King, 1998).  
Melissa Bell, Handforth, Cheshire.

YOU gave prominence to the story about older Tory party members being sacked (Tories purge staff over 50, July 20). How about showing the same concern about Labour ministers authorising the sacking of their lower paid civil servants at 60? This takes effect from the end of the month. At 50, you have a sporting chance, albeit minimal, of getting another job but at 60, the chances must be nil.  
Arthur Jacob, St Austell, Cornwall.

I AM most encouraged that Anna Ford thinks that overweight, balding men of five feet nine inches can be sexy (Anna Ford breaks the bad news, July 21). As an overweight five feet eight and a half, can I trade a full head of hair and a sense of humour for the missing half inch?  
Peter Nicklin, Newcastle Upon Tyne.

AM alone in finding your account of the "F" word of late annoying? Bel Littlejohn (July 17) is an example. It is reducing the swear value of the word. Quite soon everyone will be using it without being worth f— using.  
Roy Merrett, Bristol.

## Wide of the wicket

MATTHEW Engel's sour attack on the state of English cricket (This is the summer of our discontent, July 15) can not go unchallenged.

His description of the South African side as "uncharted, maddening and dreary" is astonishing as the team includes arguably the fastest bowler in the world, Allan Donald, and, in Jonty Rhodes, one of the most spectacular fielders.

He claims that England's draw with South Africa at Old Trafford "evokes derision rather than enthusiasm", but most other newspapers were rich with praise: "England show steel to keep series alive and kicking," said the Daily Telegraph; "The magnitude of England's effort cannot be overstated," said The Sun.

Even the Guardian described it as "The Great Escape II". Cricket is not "in danger of starving to death": more money has been invested in cricket from lottery funding than any other sport bar one, the Cricket Foundation has injected more than £10 million into the game in the past four years; there are development officers operating in every County and, although the Test

team's performance has been inconsistent, England are the World Cup holders at under-19 level and the "A" team recently completed a successful tour of Sri Lanka.

Regarding reform of the County Cricket Championship, Engel asserts that the chairman of the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB), Lord MacLaurin, appears to have settled on two divisions. The chairman has made clear that he has an open mind on any changes and has called for a debate and for ideas from interested parties which will be discussed by the First Class Counties in autumn.

The ECB does not have an "army of employees". Its staff costs, as a proportion of turnover, are lower than most other national governing bodies for sport. Less than 100 staff at Lord's and around the country is hardly excessive for a £60 million business with responsibility for all aspects of the sport, both professional and recreational.

Finally, Engel says real change will come if cricket becomes more popular with children. There are more youngsters playing cricket than ever before — some 1.5 mil-

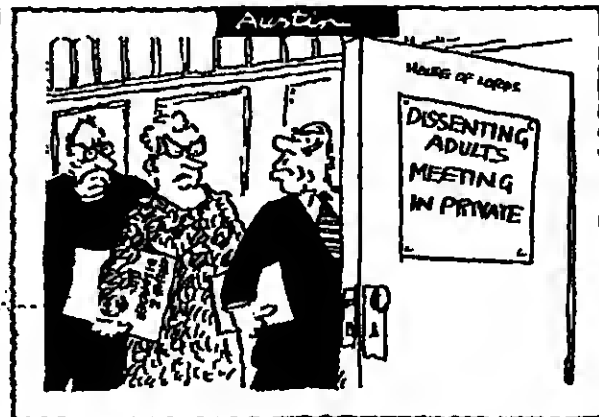
lion, of whom 400,000 are girls. There are more than 150,000 junior club members and demand for junior sections in clubs is outstripping supply.

Richard Peel, Director of Corporate Affairs, English Cricket Board.

I AM glad Engel has pointed to the utter futility of trying to revive the dying game of cricket simply by juggling with the number of divisions in the County Championship.

Interest has waned because the Test side is so weak, far fewer young people are introduced to cricket and spectators prefer a game with a result. The Test team's weakness is a consequence of the lack of young players. If most strong young men never play cricket, many potential fast bowlers will never be discovered. The Indian subcontinent slides have become strong because so many people give cricket a go, even if only bowling at coats.

Finally, why is the two innings match retained at county level? What is unfair about a one innings game finished in two days?  
Prof R W Blamey, Southwell, Notts.



## In defence of The Club

NHER attack on Channel 4 documentaries (Absent Friends, July 16), Ros Coward criticises Charles Furneaux for commissioning The Golf Club, a "classic of a voyeuristic docu-soap".

The Club was commissioned by me, several years before Charles Furneaux joined Channel 4, and was transmitted in 1994, the year the programme won the highest accolade from the Broadcasting Press Guild's journalists.

By any definition, The Club wasn't a docu-soap — the

much criticised genre of documentary serials that return to the same cast of characters week after week, like *Driving School* or *Hotel*.

Whether or not The Club was voyeuristic is a matter of debate, but it did expose the misogyny and patriarchal attitudes of a suburban golf club, subsequently forcing their members to change their attitudes to women — once considered an important issue by women like Ms Coward.

Peter Moore, Editor, Cutting Edge 1990-96.

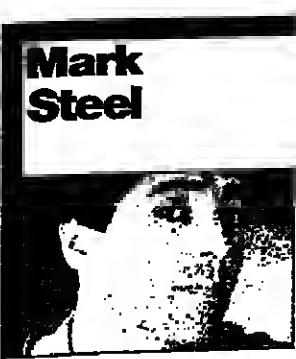
## Lockerbie: we're amazed and thrilled — conditionally

THE announcement in your article (New move to force trial of Lockerbie bomb suspects, July 21) that Britain and America are to agree to a neutral country trial of the accused Libyans, probably at the Hague, is — if confirmed — totally unexpected, extremely welcome, but also a cause for caution.

It is unexpected because the UK and US have been telling us for six years that the Security Council resolutions, requiring "surrender" of the accused to Britain or America for trial, must take precedence over any other solution. It is welcome because we believe that if the court is set up as specified by Professor Robert Black of Edinburgh — with an international panel of judges headed by a senior Scottish judge appointed by the British Prime Minister, following Scottish criminal law, and in a neutral country — it would provide the forum for a fair trial for the accused

at last. It is a cause for caution because the Libyan agreement to attend was specifically given for a court as defined by Prof Black. One of President Clinton's special assistants, Donald Bandler of the National Security Council, told me at the G8 summit in Birmingham that there was no point in setting up such a court "because the Libyans wouldn't come". If the West tries to modify the parameters of the court, the Libyans might object, cause delay, and we would be told Bandler's words were coming true. Perhaps a commission chaired by Prof Black could oversee the setting up of such a court. Has never accepted any brief from the Libyans, yet demonstrated during our discussions with the Libyan government, lawyers and Colonel Gadhafi in April, that he has their trust. Dr Jim Swire, Spokesman, UK Families Flight 103

## Days of Grace



WG GRACE, whose birth 150 years ago this week is being celebrated, held many records. One of which must be for being the subject of more meaningless, pompous books and articles than anyone else who has ever lived.

Oh to be in Gloucester When Grace goes out to bat 114 not out and 4 for 39. My goodness, fancy that. Then each page recounts tales of how fantastically magnificent he was. It wouldn't be surprising if one story went: "One day, while batting at the Oval, he scored 10 off one ball, when he hit the ball right out of the ground and it came down at Canterbury and went over the boundary there for another four."

What WG has come to stand for — fair play, good manners, polite sobriety and spreading these English values around the globe — has made him the role model for every public schoolboy. So he certainly wouldn't approve of the "Test matches" I took part in when I was 15.

The contests, which took place on a field in Swanley every day during the summer holidays, involved around 20 boys, many of whom would otherwise have probably been kicking cars and firing at

pigeons with air rifles. A generation of boys had been inspired to take up cricket by Australians like Lillie, Marsh and Thomson who were giving the game an image which was the complete opposite of Grace's.

But the Grace who remains an idol of the stripey-tie treble-barrel-named misogynists of the MCC is very different to the real Grace. He was notorious for arguing with umpires and once upset an Australian umpire so much that he walked off the field during a match and went home. He devised a number of ways of cheating in a match against Surrey. He ran six runs after the ball had become lodged in his shirt and was known to kick the ball and pretend he'd hit it with his bat.

He would stay up well into the night during Test matches playing billiards and drinking whisky and eating. He left Gloucester after an acrimonious battle with the authorities.

In other words, these days he would not be picked to play for England, and wouldn't even be allowed in to watch. Especially at the last Test when spectators were warned that they wouldn't be let in wearing fancy dress. Poor WG would be stuck behind a stropky security guard telling him: "Slave the beard of mate, and I'll think about it."

THIS latest petty regulation follows rulings that spectators can't bring flags, musical instruments or their own beer. And they wonder why nobody went to the Test. It was because people were afraid the match would suddenly stop and an announcement over the tannoy would say: "Right, there'll be no more play until whoever's making that humming noise owns up. It's your own time you're wasting you know. And you, in row 18 behind long-on, are you chewing?"

The reason for all this is that the corner of the British ruling class which runs the MCC has to be seen to be interested in cricket. So they've created an imaginary perfect Victorian gentleman, to take them back to an imaginary age when Britannia ruled the world through the virtues of fair play and Britishness.

So even fewer schoolkids will be attracted to a game which will soon be a century out of date. And the pigeons of Swanley had better find somewhere good to hide.

English upper class? I interviewed the Colonel recently for a radio show, and asked him what qualifications were required for the job. "None whatsoever," he boomed. I asked: "Do you prefer the one-day or four-day game?" "Neither," he said. "I can't think of a more boring way to spend a day than watching cricket."

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Kieran Tunney

# A brush with the limelight

IN HIS youth Kieran Tunney, who has died aged 75, was on friendly terms with the likes of Greta Garbo, Gertrude Lawrence, Vivien Leigh, and Noel Coward. Cecil Beaton and Angus McBean wanted to photograph Tunney, the young playwright, the fashionable cocktail party goer. His second play *Aurora*, an offshoot of Tchaikovsky's *The Sleeping Beauty* first written when he was 20, was heaped with praise. Indeed George Bernard Shaw helped him finally finish *Aurora* in 1947. The sage said that it was the best comedy of manners since *The Importance of Being Earnest*. Somerset Maugham declared it "the wisest thing I have read all year".

Tunney had angelic looks, and a voice that enchanted Adèle Astaire, the singing and dancing sister of Fred. The one dissenter was Nancy Astor. She said of the teenage Tunney, that his wit was basic Irish humour, given a sheen by his precocious sophistication.

Although Tunney seemed destined for the limelight, it

was to evade him. But he was far from bitter, or twisted. Tunney wrote *Aurora* for Tallulah Bankhead. A quarter of a century later he was to write *Tallulah Darling of the Gods: An Intimate Portrait* (1972), a biography based on their 20-year friendship. Whenever *Aurora's* neurotic heroine drops into a coma she does not age, but steals the heart of another man from another generation. Bankhead turned the play down, but many other actresses were drawn to the heroine, including Gertrude Lawrence and Vivien Leigh — who thought the piece as witty as Coward's *Private Lives* or Frederick Lonsdale's *On Approval* "but with more heart than either".

The play was repeatedly optioned with Peter Brook being one of its last prominent admirers. "A riveting comedy," he exclaimed. But *Aurora* was never staged in Tunney's lifetime.

Tunney was an army officer's son, born at Mallow, County Cork, and educated in Ireland, England and France. As a schoolboy he caught the



Tunney's unproduced play 'about Laurence Olivier's turbulent days at the National Theatre ends with the hero running off to join the circus

eye of a Hollywood talent scout visiting Lismore Castle, where Adèle Astaire, who had married into the aristocracy, lived. The scout thought Tunney ideal to play Garbo's son in the imminent 1935 version of *Anna Karenina*. The boy's mother begged to differ.

Tunney's mother sent *The Patriots*, his first play — first performed in Cork in 1938 — to her friend Charlotte Payne-Townshend, who was married to Shaw. Thus did Tunney become Shaw's pro-

tegè, and because he "stole from all the best Irish writers but over-wrote heavily". Shaw prescribed a stint in Fleet Street.

Tunney hated the intrusive nature of a reporter's work, but he wrote for the *Daily Sketch* in 1939-40 — before a brief stint in the *Grenadier Guards* — the *London Star* and the *News Chronicle*. He was a reporter, and theatre and ballet critic. From 1960 to 1962 he was a screenwriter for Rank but, offered a contract,

Tunney chose to stick to the stage.

From the 1940s to the 1960s, he wrote a batch of comedies, sometimes in collaboration with Simon Wardell, which were performed at outlying theatres like the old but valuable "Q" at New Bridge, or in Manchester, Cambridge or Westport, Connecticut. Two plays reached the West End — one made it to Broadway.

A *Priest in the Family* (1951), co-written with John Sygne, got away from Tunney's themes of marriage, politics and royalty to deal with an Irish mother determined to get a son into the priesthood. It boasted a magnificent Irish cast including Maire O'Neill and Joseph O'Connor and was the Observer's "play of the season". Eight years later it resurfaced in New York as *God and Kate Murphy*, and Fay Compton took the lead and made Tunney very nervous with her accent. It got into John Chapman's list of Broadway's best plays of the year and Brooks Atkinson judged it as "exhilarating" proof that the old-fashioned Irish theatre was "still alive".

In 1963 *A House of Glass* had a staged reading at the Torch Theatre, London. That was that, although Tunney wrote plays for radio and left other, unproduced plays, including *Moon On The Run*. This concerned Laurence Olivier's turbulent days at the National Theatre. It ends with him running off to join a circus.

In 1968 he published *Interrupted Autobiography: Aurora* (Quartet Books, 1968) in which he described his arrival, aged 18, in pre-war London, and provided the text of *Aurora*.

Laurence Olivier once suggested to the playwright that if in his old age he needed a summer climate he should advertise 51 per cent of the right in all his work for, say, £750,000. Tunney settled for £500,000, and placed the advertisement in the *Financial Times* in 1993. He never married.

Eric Shorter

Kieran Tunney, playwright, born October 14, 1922; died June 21, 1998

Cardinal Anastasio Ballestrero

## Turin's shroud put to the test

CARDINAL Anastasio Ballestrero, who has died aged 84, was the Archbishop of Turin who allowed scientists to perform carbon dating tests on the Turin Shroud. The 14 ft by 3 ft cloth shows what appears to be the body of a man who has been scourged, crucified and crowned with thorns. It is venerated by many Catholics as Jesus Christ's burial shroud.

The results of the tests, carried out in laboratories in Oxford, Zurich and Arizona, were announced by Cardinal Ballestrero 10 years ago. The shroud was an apparent medieval fake dating from between 1260 and 1380.

Devotees of the shroud criticised the Cardinal for allowing himself to be duped by the scientists and recently a theory has been propounded that the carbon-14 tests gave the inaccurate reading because of the cloth's exposure to fire in 1822. Supporters of this view say the fire damaged the results of the tests and maintain that the shroud is, after all, a genuine relic from the time of Christ.

Doubts about the authenticity of the shroud have not prevented millions of people from coming to venerate it during the brief periods that it has been put on public display in Turin Cathedral. Pope John Paul himself has visited three times. Ballestrero took the results of the tests in his stride, saying there was no question of faith at issue and that Christians could continue to venerate the shroud as an inspiring icon.

"We didn't expect those laboratory results, but the Cardinal accepted them without drama; for him, as he often explained, the paths that lead to faith are elsewhere," said Professor Franco Testa, one of the experts consulted by the Cardinal prior to the tests. "He was saddened by the attacks. Some people wrongly said that the problem of the shroud had received insufficient attention, but they forget that he had the courage to rely on science, showing an open-mindedness that might appear at odds with his own mysticism."

Ballestrero was born in Genoa and joined the Carmelite monastic order at the age

of 16. He was ordained priest at 22 and rose to become Superior General of the order in 1955, travelling twice round the world to visit the convents and monasteries in his charge. As chairman of the Italian Bishops' Conference he showed a far-sighted desire to loosen the ties between the church and the dominant corrupt Christian Democrat Party. He participated in the work of the Second Vatican Council, contributing to a paper on religious freedom, and also played a role in negotiating the Conciliarist, which was signed with the Italian state in 1984.

Ballestrero had the round, jovial face of a country priest and he was more at home as a



Ballestrero... open minded

reclusive monk than as a prince of the church, thrust into the public eye. After four years as Archbishop of Bari he moved to Turin in 1977, tackling the problems of a large industrial city characterised at the time by social tensions and the violence of the Red Brigades.

Following the Heysel football stadium disaster in 1985 Ballestrero worked hard for a reconciliation between the people of Turin and Liverpool, inviting the mayor and the Anglican and Catholic archbishops of the English city to join him in prayer in Turin Cathedral. He spent the years since his retirement in 1986 in study and meditation in a monastery in Liguria.

Philip Wilson

Cardinal Anastasio Alberto Ballestrero, priest, born October 3, 1913; died June 21, 1998

Jimmy Driftwood

## History lesson that sold a million copies

JIMMY Driftwood, who has died of a heart attack aged 91, recalled that in his boyhood in the Ozarks, he never heard the term "folk music". But, he added, "we sure played a lot of it".

Musician, songwriter, collector, amateur folklorist and vigorous publicist, Driftwood devoted his life to ensuring that the people of northern Arkansas continued to sing and play their oldtime songs and fiddle tunes. In the tradition of another evocatively named American figure, the folk hero John Appleseed, he sowed a love of traditional ways wherever it would grow. But he encouraged use as well as respect. "You can preserve peaches in a jar and they'll last forever," he used to say. "But that's not like going out and planting a tree so you'll keep on having peaches".

He was born James Corbett Morris in Mountain View, Arkansas, and learned old songs and ballads from his father, Neal Morris, and other family members. He obtained an education degree aged 32, taught in rural schools, and wrote and sang in his spare time. To explain an episode in American history — the disastrous 1615 British attack on New Orleans — to his students, he composed *The Battle*

of New Orleans, with its pugnacious refrain.

We fired our guns but the British kept a-comin'. Though there were not as many as there were a while ago.

We fired once more and they began a-running'. All down the Mississippi to the Gulf of Mexico.

The song was a million-seller in 1959 for the country singer Johnny Horton. In Britain it was a hit for Lonnie Donegan, who sang of the "bloomin' British Driftwood".

'The awakening didn't come in the country, it came in the big cities'

had said "bloody") and with belated tact converted them, in the refrain, to "rebels".

In 1960 Driftwood's *Tennessee Stud* was almost as successful for Eddy Arnold. He won awards for his own plain, folksy recordings of *Wilderness Road* and the album *Billy Yank & Johnny Reb*. For several years he often appeared on Nashville's Grand Ole Opry, strumming his home-made guitar and singing what

he once drily described in an album title as "newly discovered early American folk songs". He also performed on the mouth bow, which uses the mouth cavity as a resonant chamber, somewhat like a Jew's harp.

"In 1963," he wrote in the sleeve notes for an album of local music produced by the National Geographic Magazine (a typical Driftwood coup), "some people here in Stone County, Arkansas, got together to try to save a part of our American musical heritage. We called ourselves the Rackensack Folklore Society, after an old name for the Arkansas River and the state. We wanted to encourage the preservation of the folk music that had survived so long in our hills, and our dances and legends, not only for ourselves and our children, but also for our city cousins as well. Much of our folk heritage had been forgotten, drowned out by the jukebox and television. But there were a few people who remembered."

Driftwood gathered some of the "people who remembered", such as the ballad singer Aunt Ollie Gilbert and banjo player Bookmillers Shannon, at a folk festival which became an annual event. His efforts coincided with the rapid growth of tourism and vacation home buying in the Ozarks, and within a decade he obtained state and federal funds for a multi-million-dollar Ozark Folk Center outside Mountain View, equipped with an auditorium, library and craft



Jimmy Driftwood... preserving the folk music of Arkansas

PHOTOGRAPH: RICH MCFARLAND

shops. When he lost his post as the center's musical director after a disagreement with other board members, he organised tours for local musicians and weekly concerts at the Driftwood Barn, which he later made over to the University of Central Arkansas.

Though dedicated to his own patch, Driftwood did not share the common southern suspicion of northern folk singers and folklorists. "Let's

give credit to the young folks in college for the renaissance in folk music," he said in 1978. "That awakening didn't come in the country. It came out of the big cities. People came down here from the University of Chicago and other places looking for roots. Although a lot of the people around here at first thought those folks looked like hippies, they aren't afraid of them any more because they

know those people are interested in what our people know".

His three sons died before him, but he is survived by his wife Cleda, a brother and two sisters.

Tony Russell

Jimmy Driftwood (James Corbett Morris), folk musician and folklorist, born June 20, 1917; died July 12, 1998

Ian Connell

## Ideology and TV

IN 1971 Ian Connell, who has committed suicide, aged 49, began postgraduate studies at the University of Birmingham's Centre for Contemporary Studies. The year before, as a Glasgow University undergraduate — reading sociology and English — he had got hold of the *Working Class in Capitalist Society* produced from the centre. It was at that time when Stuart Hall was replacing Richard Hoggart as the centre's director.

The papers contained essays and articles on subjects which no other institution would consider worthy of study: motorbike boys, Hollywood stars and news photographs. By the time I arrived at Birmingham University in 1974, Ian, working closely with Stuart Hall, had established a formidable reputation as an expert on the French Marxist philosopher Louis Althusser.

Indeed Ian wrote a seminal article on current affairs television. *The Unity of Current Affairs* developed and applied Althusser's theory of ideology, and demonstrated how, despite the abstraction, Althusser's ideas could be shown to work in the real world.

Ideology did indeed function by creating and naturalising a whole world. It inserted itself into our everyday routines, and reassured us with its comforting rituals. The world might be full of conflict and division, but the pulling together operation in the closing moments of the late night news programme; the symbols, music, smile and soothing words of the news presenter, would still re-

affirm that we were at one as a nation.

In 1971 Ian went on to lecture in media and cultural studies at Coventry University. A decade later he moved to the University of Wolverhampton, and there he was associate dean of arts and humanities until 1987. He continued to work on political communications, in Marxistist theory and in journals like *Screen and Media, Culture and Society*.

Ian Connell was born and raised in Glasgow. I first met him at the university in 1970, where he was part of a group of serious-looking people who read English newspapers like the *Guardian*, shunned hippy goings-on and constituted the university's left. He was somebody for whom the passion of left-wing politics was also a passion for debate.

Gradually his mid-1980s Eurocommunism gave way to a kind of New Labour pragmatism. He had a deep understanding of the power of the media, and an interest in populism, as a political strategy mastered by Margaret Thatcher, and necessary for the left. This meant that at the time of his death, ironically, he had so much to say.

His marriage to Nancy Robertson, by whom he had twin sons, was dissolved. His long-term partner was Suzanne Orsler.

Angela McRobbie

Ian Connell, academic, born March 4, 1948; died June 29, 1998

### Death Notices

MRS. J. On 19th July at the University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff, Veronica of Aberystwyth, widow, and cherished daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. Williams, died at the age of 84. Burial at St. Asaph's Church, Caernarfon, on Friday July 24th at 10.30. Further enquiries to The Lewis Funeral Directors, Mill Street, Aberystwyth.

MRS. Margaret A. Tett and family regret to announce the death of Margaret on 19th July at her home in Bromley, Kent. Funeral service will be held at St. Mary's Church, Bromley, on Friday July 24th at 11.00. Family home, 10, Bromley Road, Bromley, Kent. Donations to The Co-operative Funeral Service, 225 High Street, Brighton BN1 1BB.

### In Memoriam

HARRIS, Vincent, 8.2.27-27.7.97. Much loved and missed. John, Emily, Shireen and all the family.

WTO Place your obituary notice by telephone 0171 23 3607 or fax 0171 23 3607 between 9am and 5pm Mon-Fri.

## The Guardian Travel Shop

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### A Country Diary

L'AVEYRON: Tiled roofs of Cordes glow red in the evening sun, on a hilltop above fields of cut corn, lucerne and sunflowers. We have walked from Millau by way of the Aveyron valley, the airy plateau of Levezou some 100 miles behind us. There, yellow broom is brilliant among sorrel and waving grasses, or-metis narcissi still flowering in shade. Vast tracks of extensive farming and pastured woodland recede into the blue distance around Mont Aigoual. Lower down, paths are

shaded with holly and oak, junctions marked with calveria in stone or iron, hedges thick with elder, rose and honeysuckle. This intensely green, pastoral landscape is punctuated by occasional groups of sleek Charolais cows and calves, luminous in the summer haze. Farms, with distinctive steep-roofed dovecotes, have neat wood-piles and lush gardens, all growing beans, spinach, lettuce, peas and tomatoes, with rows of gladioli, lilies and swags of pink and red roses.

Plutades cackle and fowls peck around machinery parked under old walnuts. Folded away in this bosky land the fortified church of Interes is massive, dwarfing the big farmhouses and modern outbuildings used for milking sheep. The huge keep, topped with battlements, built above the nave, was an essential refuge in turbulent days. It rains once. As we walk out from Rodez the cathedral's red sandstone gargoyles and thunder rain. Later the sluggish Aveyron runs muddy.

past old mills grown about with silvery willows, the path overhung with box draped in moss. Towards Najac cicadas are ever more clamorous, supplanting the hoisterous songs of blackcaps. Above the wooded gorge, on the Causse de Souci, in sparse oak and juniper scrub, are domed cazes, old stone shelters. Greenness has faded and the stony, red earth path from Villananche trails small pink and white bindweed and sweet pea.

VIRGINIA SPIERS

### CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

SIR JAMES LIGHTEILL, an apology to his family: The surname of Sir James Lighthill, in his obituary notice, Page 16, yesterday, became Lightman in the fourth paragraph and remained incorrect in further references throughout the piece. The error was also repeated in the caption to the photograph of Sir James. The error was ours and not made by the author of the obituary. Sir James was not Lacasian professor of mathematics at Cambridge. He was Lucasian professor. Profuse apologies to Sir James's family.

IN OUR report of the *Radio Times* interview with Anna Ford, Page 2, yesterday, we said she described Esther Rantzen as "a tough old thing with a temper". In fact Ms Ford makes no reference at all to Ms Rantzen anywhere in the *Radio Times* account. The words quoted refer to Desmond Wolfe (Ms Rant-

zen's husband). Anna Ford did not say that Mr Wilcox had "a terribly bad temper". The words attributed to her in our report. Apologies to Ms Rantzen, Mr Wilcox and Anna Ford.

THERE were several ghastly mistakes in our panel, Death on the box, Page 2, Media, July 20, listing the causes of death for various television soap opera characters. "Dopey" Derek Wilton, *Coronation Street*, was not killed in a car crash. He died of a heart attack after being involved in a road rage incident. In *Brookside*, Heather Haversham (not Havisham) was not electrocuted, but after the death of her husband ran away "to a new beginning". Laura Wright, however, did die after getting a shock from a faulty light switch, then falling down the stairs. Jimmy Corkhill did not commit suicide. He was stabbed to death by drug deal-

ers who had been pursuing him. Cracker the dog was not shot. He was run over by a green bicyclist in tight lycra, pedalling like fury...

A PHOTOGRAPH on Page 12, April 20, had a caption which described the subject as Croations paying their respects to the Nazis' victims at a monument outside Jasenovac. It went on to say the ceremony was to mark the 53rd anniversary of the Soviet liberation of the death camp which once stood on the site. The people massacred at Jasenovac (the vast majority Serbs, but also Jews and Gypsies) were not the victims of the Nazis but of the Ustashe, the Croatian puppet regime of the Nazis. The camp was not liberated by Soviet soldiers but by Tito's partisans.

PEDDLED AGAIN: In a column headed "Lions led down with the lambs in a miracle of transport policy,

Page 16, July 20, we referred to John Prescott as "a car man, and not some lean, green bicyclist in tight lycra, pedalling like fury..." You pedal a bicycle (repeatedly).

IN OUR list of the Top 10 UK hardbacks, Page 11, the Saturday section, July 18, the wrong name of the author of *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets* is J K Rowling (first name is Joanne, not Joanna as printed in the past two editions of the Saturday Guardian).

It is the policy of the *Guardian* to correct errors as soon as possible. Please quote date and page number. Readers may contact the office of the Readers' Editor by telephoning 0171 239 5899 between 11am and 5pm, Monday to Friday. Sur-jace mail to Readers' Editor, 52, Dr Harold Rhodea, cricket umpire, 60, Terence Stamp, actor, 60, Diane Yeo, charity worker, 53.



# Analysis Mutual societies



Tribune of the people  
8



## Board with Victorian values

Big capital rides high. Nationwide may decide this week to cash in as well. But the financial future for some people, argues **David Walker**, may still lie with the friendly societies founded by the Rochdale pioneers (top)

**W**HO didn't say this recently as Nationwide's fate has hung in the balance? "Members of building societies should think long and hard before surrendering their ownership to institutions which may have no great interest in the philosophy that brought the building society movement together."

The answer is Alistair Darling, chief secretary to the Treasury. However he did say it three years ago (1). In power, business-friendly New Labour is not sure about "mutualism". Here's a bastard child of capitalism which the party has occasionally chuckled under the chin but never warmly embraced. Though the Treasury made it harder last autumn for building societies to convert, ministers have been waiting to see how many members of Nationwide vote for money as opposed to mutuality (Today we get the results of elections to Nationwide's board and tomorrow the decision on whether in principle to go ahead and convert.)

Out of the same historical drawer as the Rochdale pioneers and the millhands' co-operative shop, the building society movement became one of the glories of Victorian provincial self-help. Recycling

savings deposits as loans to home-builders and buyers, the societies helped give England's middle and working classes a stake in fixed property (and may inadvertently have contributed to social stability and labour market inflexibility). Victims of their success, they grew big and lost their local roots. In the fat Sixties, thanks to their cosy cartel, they accumulated huge surpluses which too rarely were used to buy the loyalty of either mortgagees or savers. In the deregulating Eighties, Abbey National led the way out of an increasingly anomalous status by becoming a public limited company — pumping impressive sums of feel-good cash into the public's hands. (Far less of it being spent on cars, kitchens and Thomson holidays than predicted, most seems to have been recycled as savings). Post conversion, precious few high street savers have the faintest clue about corporate constitutions. Except locally. Some societies still have a Victorian touch, in the sense of specialist knowledge of their customers and their housing needs. Today's biggies — the Nationwide and Britannia — are fully-formed financial services empires in all but name.

But despite the departure of the Woolwich and Halifax, the Building Societies Association is still big. It has 71 members with assets of around

£140 billion, leading to some 2.4 million, paying interest to 15 million investors. Lately Nationwide and the others have raised their game by offering clients tangible evidence of their special status by narrowing the gap between interest rates offered to savers and those charged to mortgagees. The tactic may be working despite the intensity of competition in the market for home loans and savings. Building societies' share of new lending is well up this year on last. Some even say a kind of re-cartelisation might be their salvation. Derbyshire Building Society has advocated pooling back-office functions, allowing societies to keep their local identities while cutting overheads.

But "mutualism" is in play. Lately there has been a heady whiff of neo-Darwinian certainty in the air. History is moving in the direction of size and profitability and — so it's said — all consumers are interested in is price. Michael Bernstein, with Morgan Stanley Dean Witter in New York, voices American certitude: "I suspect the same forces are at work the world over. How do mutuals compete with diversified, stockholder-owned companies? They don't have the capital, they don't have the economies of scale and they don't have the currency to motivate management and employees."

Demutualisation, it is true, provided a lot of excitement recently as well as those windfalls which customers and conventional wisdom believe to be an authentic example of a free lunch. Future generations of retirees will get a chance to test the claim. In the United States Prudential Insurance, in Australia AMP (owners of London Life), in Canada Sun Life are among the big pensions providers which have changed status recently. Yet in insurance the die is not cast. NPI has been robustly defending its likely pay outs on personal pensions. "With profits" arrangements may have had a bad press but there are substantial assurance

mutuals out there confident their customers will see the benefit of the way they structure their funds, among them Scottish Provident and Equitable Life. Although mutuals form only one in 12 of the members of the Association of British Insurers, they write 30 per cent of all British insurance.

British law recognises four categories of mutual: building societies, friendly societies, credit unions and a catch-all group called industrial and provident societies, the ranks of which include trade unions, the Lloyd's Register of Shipping, sundry clubs and co-ops. The Friendly Societies are another nineteenth-century legacy: a group of regulated smallish businesses offering insurance enjoying tax exemption. Lloyd George made them the cornerstone of his original national insurance scheme. Nowadays there are some 288 societies controlling assets of £10 billion. Frank Field dreams of them as a vehicle for poor people's pensions in his recent green paper on the future of welfare.

**S**HOULD mutuals feel defensive — do they deserve defending in an age when plc status beckons? Here are some comparative tests: •do they perform better as business organisations? •do they offer owners/customers greater accountability? •do they inject equity into economic relationships?

Some mutuals turn out to be oligarchies operating in monopolistic or oligopolistic markets. "Members" of the Royal Automobile Club realised this year they had no stake in deciding the organisation's future — that turned out to be the prerogative of the Pall Mall bit of the club, its members gaining £30,000 each as a result. How many times have members of the mutual Automobile Association been consulted when it makes pronouncements on transport policy (of a reactionary nature

until John Prescott seduced them)? Other mutual organisations do seem to embody a principle of disinterest. The florists who own Interiors presumably feel more comfortable co-operating than contracting with a commercial supplier of the service; similarly the 17,000-odd dairy farmers who own Milk Marque, successor to the statutory Milk Marketing Board. Various stock exchanges are mutual, including the London International Financial and Futures Options Exchange (Liffe). At the very heart of cap-

italism are forms of association which do not depend on profit maximisation and which rely on trust. Among them are the various partnerships, including the giant accounting bodies, though the unpicking of Goldman Sachs suggests instability to come.

Mutuals share accountability problems with public limited companies. However unattractive the figure cut by Nationwide's nemesis, the corrupting former royal butler Michael Barber, he has at least emerged the society's

members into voting. It is estimated that around 2 million of Nationwide's 4.9 million members have participated in this week's vote — good by local government if not general election standards. Public companies tend to import the rhetoric of democracy from the civic sphere into their governance but little of its culture. In theory companies and societies are democratic: the former belong to shareholders just as mutuals belong to members. In practice attendances at meetings and voting is patchy in both sectors. The problem is the divorce of management and ownership and it is compounded by the latter-day withdrawal of the public into set roles — customers rarely re-invent themselves as corporate voters.

**L**EGAL forms and economic behaviour have gone hard to set roles — customers rarely re-invent themselves as corporate voters.

ago by Adolf Berle and Gardiner Means (4). Ownership and management ought to come closer together when organisations are smaller and more local. But even here the evidence is patchy. Housing co-operatives and associations are usually industrial and provident societies owned by members with untradeable £1 shares. They can be close marriages of tenants, managers and do-gooding trustees; they can also be big anonymous organisations not altogether distinguishable from council housing departments (5).

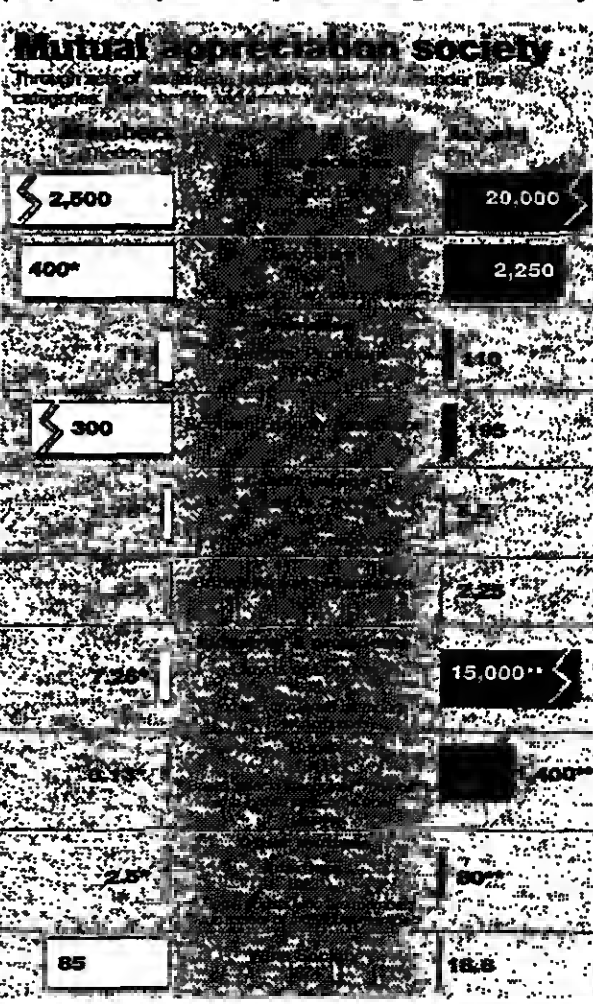
Both left and right have recently been taken with the prospects for credit unions, which are basically small scale banks run by volunteers or people with a social mission. Credit unions are big business in the United States where, famously, even the film director Steven Spielberg belongs to one. In Britain they are a tiny part of the financial sector but may offer a way for people on low incomes who might be refused as customers by commercial banks to put by a little

and, more important, receive loans. Lack of access to credit has been identified as one of the harshest penalties suffered by the poor (6).

Some on the left see mutualisation as a substitute for state ownership — the BBC has been touted as a candidate. Coming together in mutual ownership is attractive as an idea, a source of belonging in an alienated world. But not all clubs are progressive, as Jewish people have found out trying to play golf in the suburbs; and the uncouth and untrendy are not going to be welcome at the Groucho.

There is no hard and fast distinction between a not-for-profit company, a mutual, a voluntary organisation and a charity; there is a variety of overlapping legal definitions and regulatory bodies. All that can be said is that they mix, in varying degrees, motivations which economics textbooks don't usually recognise and, at best, they offer an enticing prospect of self-administration. If to the "voluntary sector" (estimated by the National Council for Voluntary Organisations to turn over £20 billion a year) we add industrial and provident societies, building societies and friendly societies, perhaps some 350,000 separate organisations in all — here is a substantial chunk of national product passing through the non-profit route. What kind of society would Britain be if all that were de-mutualised?

Sources: (1) Centre for Study of Financial Innovation, The UK Building Societies: Do they have a future? Sept 1995; (2) CSFI, Mutuality for the 21st Century by Rosalind Gilmore (forthcoming); (3) A New Contract for Welfare, March 1998, at [www.dss.gov.uk/ncc](http://www.dss.gov.uk/ncc); (4) Adolf Berle and Gardiner Means The Modern Corporation and Private Property, Macmillan 1932; (5) Joseph Flaxman Foundation, various reports at [www.jff.org.uk/vt.html](http://www.jff.org.uk/vt.html); (6) Money lenders and their customers, December 1994, JFF. Graphics: Mandy Watson. Research: Matthew Keating. David Walker edits Analysis.



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# FinanceGuardian

Founder returns to help exchange face challenge of electronic trading

## Liffe reels as chief quits

Julian Treanor

**T**HE City's troubled Liffe futures exchange was embroiled in further controversy last night after the sudden departure of Daniel Hodson, its chief executive, and the appointment of a chairman who first headed the exchange more than 10 years ago.

Mr Hodson resigned yesterday at a board meeting of the London International Financial Futures and Options Exchange (Liffe) at which one of the exchange's founders, Brian Williamson, was appointed to the new position of executive chairman.

He was asked to take up the £320,000-a-year position only last week after a three-month executive search by headhunters failed to turn up the right candidate.

Mr Williamson, aged 53, is returning to the exchange he helped to invent in the eight-

ies. He was chairman between 1986 and 1988. Michael Jenkins, who ran the exchange for more than 10 years and headed the search committee, said the candidates interviewed were "not quite right".

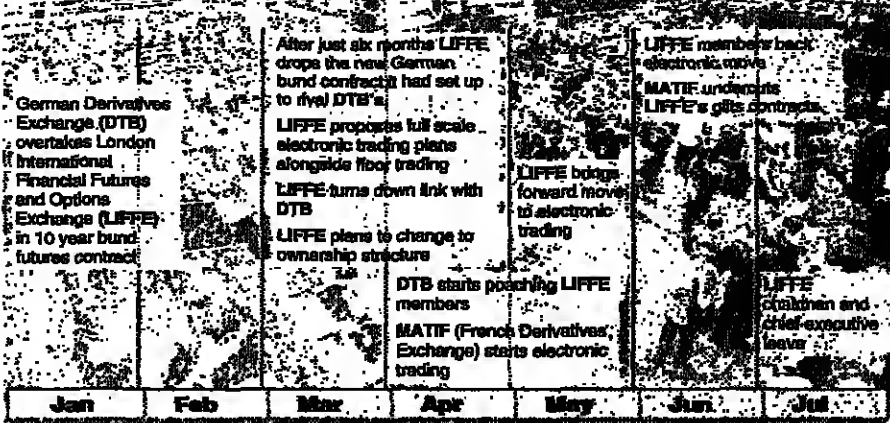
It seems Mr Williamson, a rich man with many business interests, was persuaded at the last minute to accept the task of reversing the exchange's fortunes.

Mr Williamson, who replaces Jack Wigglesworth, the non-executive chairman, on August 3, is seeking a new chief executive to replace Mr Hodson, who earned nearly \$500,000 last year.

Mr Hodson, whose pay-off was deemed "private", has been much criticised. This year the exchange suffered the humiliation of losing its key futures contract on German government bonds (bunds) to DTB, its German rival.

The speed with which the DTB, an electronic exchange,

### Seven months that shook the exchange



has snatched business from Liffe also forced the London exchange to speed up the introduction of electronic trading and end the era of highly paid, brightly clad young men conducting deals via complex hand signals on the trading

floor at Cannonbridge in the City. The floor, where the traders jostled for position in packed trading "pits", was almost deserted yesterday, a sign of new technology being embraced by the market. One City source said that

despite its problems Liffe had still achieved record trading levels in the first half. "Hodson was in an impossible position, managing a business run for self-interest of the members," another source said. Liffe's board was

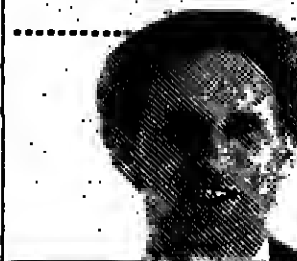
revamped recently and slumped after members left, frustrated by slow pace of decisions. The exchange is also changing its ownership structure to make it a profit-making organisation rather than one owned and run by members.

Mr Hodson, who will leave next week, said he would "take stock" before deciding on his next move. He denied he had been forced to leave. Mr Williamson, who is leaving the Gerard Group he joined in the seventies and now chairs, intends to spend the summer canvassing members. City sources said he must decide whether to forge alliances with other exchanges and further accelerate the pace of electronic trading.

Yesterday, he did not rule out discussions on increasing its ties with the London Stock Exchange, which recently forged a ground-breaking alliance with Deutsche Börse, its German rival.

### Notebook

## Make the board earn its reward



Alex Brummer

**I**N AN age when many western governments have placed a high premium on entrepreneurship, determining the "correct" levels of boardroom pay is exceedingly complex. There is nothing intrinsically wrong in the leaders of Britain's largest companies receiving an 18 per cent increase in remuneration over the last 12 months, as the Guardian Index of Top Executive Pay shows today. After all, growth in the economy was strong and wealth creation was good for the whole of Britain.

The difficulty comes when government, and now the Bank of England, elevate pay levels to an issue of national importance. It is an embarrassment when the Chancellor, Gordon Brown, and the Bank of England preach that above-inflation earnings will damage the economy and when those at the top of industry do not abide by the rules.

Corporations as well as spending departments in government need to find better ways of rewarding workers throughout their organisations for productivity increases, which should be non-inflationary.

Some companies have tried to find a better formula. At Marks & Spencer, for example, the bonus system has been skewed to benefit the whole workforce rather than only those at senior levels. The company has been castigated in some quarters for an inflation-busting deal. This is poppycock.

Much more grotesque is the situation at Rentokil Initial, the company headed by the new president of the CBI, Sir Clive Thompson. Last year he was paid £1.465 million, whereas the average pay of his workers was £2,727. Sir Clive is hardly the representative of the high-value, high-quality economy which is at the core of the Blair/Brown mission.

In parts of the forest it is possible to justify out-of-the-ordinary pay levels. Business creators like Sam Chiscolm of BSKyB, who is at the forefront of the digital revolution in the UK, Hans Snook of Orange and Chris Gent of Vodafone, both at the technological edge. When their rewards are compared with what is available to American counterparts like John Malone of TCI or Bernie Ebbers of WorldCom — who received a \$17 billion (£10.6 billion) bonus for gamifying BT to merge with MCI — British remuneration looks modest.

If Britain is to maintain incentives for innovation and risk-taking in bio-technology and the covering telecommunications technologies, then it has to pay international rates for the job. Where the UK system of ex-

ecutive pay breaks down is in companies such as Rentokil where boardroom pay is totally divorced from what happens below in the workforce, or in other FTSE companies which simply pay ever-bigger rewards for average performance as part of the mutual back-scratching which goes on in some remuneration committees.

If executive pay had to be voted up or down at annual meetings, then perhaps some of the more egregious awards might be trimmed and a greater sense of perspective brought to the deliberations on executive pay.

Instead, an obsession with comparatives has many FTSE executives feeding from the same honey-pot.

### Liffe raft

**T**HE shake-up at Liffe, the London futures exchange, was all but inevitable. Volumes in the London market may still be rising but much of the activity is in short-term interest-rate products — arbitrage ahead of the euro — whereas dealings in Liffe's previous stronghold, the bond contracts, has been tumbling along with dealings in equity products.

The management of Liffe under the departing leadership of non-executive chairman Jack Wigglesworth and chief executive Daniel Hodson have only themselves to blame for the loss of competitive edge to continental markets.

Admittedly, forcing change in a market governed by the membership, rather than shareholders, is often difficult, as both the London Stock Exchange and Lloyd's of London found in recent years. But they adapted.

Now Liffe is doing the same. The person who will lead the charge back is one of the early leading lights of Liffe, Brian Williamson, who returns as executive chairman and will recruit a new chief executive to work alongside him.

He has a myriad of tasks ahead. The first and perhaps most difficult is forcing the pace of technological change towards screen-based systems.

There should be no shortage of workable software in the market place, so this is not a question of creating something from scratch, as was the case with the LSE's calamitous experiment with Taurus followed by Crest and, at times, unreliable Sets order-driven trading system.

The second and more important decision is whether to go it alone or with an ally. One possibility is a merger with the London Stock Exchange to create a City-based market powerhouse.

The alternative is to recognise that, after the euro arrives, fund managers, traders and other users of the futures markets will want a unified trading system with Europe-wide reach.

This would point to Liffe signing up with DTB of Germany, the Nordic exchanges and others to become part of Eurex, in much the same way as the LSE decided to work with Deutsche Börse.

### Flight wars



Stelios Haji-Ioannou, EasyJet's Greek-Cypriot owner, in a Greek court yesterday denies accusations by travel agents seeking to ban his advertisements. PHOTOGRAPH: LEIFERIS PITAKAKIS

## Airtours swoops again

Merger frenzy yields £42m for founder of Direct Holidays, says Pauline Springett

**J**OHN Boyle, the Scottish entrepreneur who owns a quarter of Motherwell Football Club, was £2 million richer yesterday after selling the holiday company he founded seven years ago to Airtours for nearly £81 million.

The sale will give his brother and co-founder, Hugh Boyle, £14 million and director Paul Chestnutt £4 million. Thirteen staff at Direct Holidays will share £4 million, with pay-offs ranging from £40,000 to £250,000 each.

Royal Bank of Scotland, which took a 20 per cent stake in Direct in 1991, will receive £16 million.

John Boyle, who will remain chairman of Direct Holidays said: "This is a very

good deal for my staff and a good deal for customers, who will have access to a wider range of holidays."

The acquisition gives Airtours an important entrée into the rapidly growing telephone sales market.

Direct Holidays operates from five airports — Glasgow, Edinburgh, Liverpool, Manchester and Newcastle. The company expects to carry 210,000 passengers in the year to the end of September, as well as 20,000 holiday-makers on its cruise ships.

The air packages mainly take holidaymakers to the Mediterranean, while the cruise division, which was established last August, goes to the Canary Islands and Norwegian fjords.

Direct Holidays made a profit before tax of £13 million in the year to the end of September 1997.

Industry analysts said they thought the sale price of the travel operator was quite high — although they conceded that the company's turnover had increased spectacularly over the past five years — from £11.4 million to £68.5 million — and that the business appeared to be going from strength to strength.

Airtours is highly acquisitive. In May this year it spent £17 million on a 29 per cent stake in one of the largest tour operators in Germany.

That followed the £70 million purchase of Sun International, Belgium's largest holiday group.

Tim Byrne, Airtours' finance director said that more deals were likely, but declined to give details. "There is a trend of global

consolidation which is set to continue. There are lots of opportunities yet," he said.

Chris Ward, a partner at City accountants Deloitte & Touche, described the current state of acquisitions in the travel industry as "a feeding frenzy".

It had been sparked, Mr Smith said, by the recent report from the Monopolies and Mergers Commission which ruled that integrated tour operators were not exploiting customers.

Since the MMC delivered its report, the market leader, Thomson, has been floated and First Choice has acquired the travel operators, Hayes & Jarvis and Unifit.

Mr Ward said the upshot of the acquisition activity was that the four largest British tour operators — Thomson, Airtours, First Choice and Sun World — have 71 per cent of the market.

## EasyJet tries fare play in court

**O**FFERS of cut-price holidays can be found in many places, but not usually a courtroom, writes Helena Smith in Athens. Yesterday, however, EasyJet the no-frills airline, tried to make judicial and aviation history.

Appearing in Athens for his latest legal battle, Stelios Haji-Ioannou, the airline's chairman, mixed ingenuously with largesse by offering free Athens-London travel to anyone willing to support him.

The stunt surprised Greek travel agents who had begun the legal action. Among those who rushed to take up the offer were dozens of their employees who had turned up to denounce EasyJet's policy of bypassing their services.

Mr Haji-Ioannou, who founded the company in Luton in 1995, incurred the wrath of his countrymen after starting low-cost daily flights to Athens this month. The airline advertised its latest European destination with the slogan "forget your travel agent".

The federation of Greek travel agents accused Mr Haji-Ioannou, the son of a Greek-Cypriot shipping family, of "commercial hoodlums" and trying to steal jobs when unemployment is rising.

Travel agents obtained an injunction barring EasyJet from advertising in Greece. But yesterday they sought to have the flights banned.

The Athens Court of First Instance delivered a verdict in September.

## Stagecoach to bid for rail franchise extension

Keith Harper  
Transport Editor

**S**TAGECOACH, the bus and train operator, will bid for another seven-year franchise to run South West Trains, the company fined last year for cancelling hundreds of services. Keith

Cochrane, group finance director, confirmed yesterday that SWT, which last year made a profit of more than £20 million and operates services between London, the South Coast and Exeter, wanted to extend its franchise. Stagecoach was unperturbed by the fact that Porterbrook, its rolling stock com-

pany, faced tighter regulation if it failed to agree to new guidelines for operation with John Swift, the rail regulator. "The spectre of regulation has been hanging over us for six years, but we are confident of reaching an agreement with Mr Swift," said Mr Cochrane. John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, has said that

he has come to no conclusion on whether to renew the seven-year franchises for more than a dozen train operating companies. They will have to offer value for money for passengers and more investment, Mr Prescott insists. Stagecoach's intentions were underlined as it reported annual profits of

£158.5 million, up 32 per cent on last year. It emphasised that it supported the Government's white paper on integrated transport, published earlier this week.

The company said that the Government's moves were bound to boost rail and bus passenger numbers and create regional expansion oppor-

tunities across Britain. Mike Kinsell, group chief executive, said that it had enjoyed a strong performance.

One priority would be to continue to enhance train reliability and customer services on SWT. During the year, it planned to introduce £100 million of new trains, he said.

## Greenspan hint of rate rise

Mark Tran in Washington

**F**EDERAL Reserve chairman Alan Greenspan yesterday signalled a shift in US monetary policy when he said the central bank was more concerned about inflationary pressure than a slowdown in the economy.

In his mid-year report to Congress, Mr Greenspan said that Fed policy-makers in March moved to a "state of heightened alert against inflation", although they left monetary policy unchanged.

The Fed last raised short-term rates in March 1997 by a quarter-point to 5.5 per cent. In a statement to the Senate Banking Committee, Mr Greenspan hinted that the Fed is about to raise rates be-

cause of tightening labour markets. "Given the current tightness in labour markets, the potential for accelerating inflation is probably greater than the risk of protracted, excessive weakness in the economy," he said.

Mr Greenspan said it was important to recognise that the dampening effect of the Asian crisis on inflation was the balance of supply and demand in labour and product markets in the US that would have the greatest impact on domestic inflation rates.

"Wage and benefit costs have been remarkably subdued in the current expansion. Nonetheless, an accelerating trend in wages has been apparent for some time," Mr Greenspan said.

### TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS

|                 |                 |                   |                  |
|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Australia 2.556 | Germany 2.85    | Malaysia 2.79     | Singapore 2.75   |
| Austria 20.10   | Greece 472.25   | Malta 0.826       | South Africa 5.8 |
| Belgium 36.96   | Hong Kong 12.41 | Netherlands 3.202 | Spain 160.30     |
| Canada 2.53     | India 70.07     | New Zealand 3.05  | Sweden 127.8     |
| Cyprus 0.841    | Ireland 1.127   | Norway 12.11      | Switzerland 2.13 |
| Denmark 10.96   | Israel 8.01     | Portugal 269.30   | Turkey 422.810   |
| Finland 3.72    | Italy 2.854     | Saudi Arabia 3.07 | USA 1.001        |
| France 6.522    |                 |                   |                  |

Supplied by Reuters (excluding rupee, shilling and rand)

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# Tour de France

## Ullrich emerges from the mists

William Fotheringham  
in Luchon

**A**FTER hiding in the depths of the peloton all the way from Dublin to the south of France, apart from a brief appearance to win Saturday's time-trial, the real Jan Ullrich appeared yesterday, five miles before the Col de Peyresourde, the last climb before the descent to the finish here.

Ullrich rode the whole stage, the toughest of the Tour so far, in the style of Miguel Indurain, the five-time Tour winner whose record many expect him to equal.

First he tackled the Aubisque and Tourmalet passes safely ensconced among his

pink-clad domestiques from the Deutsche Telekom team, observing the opposition.

There was a brief hiccup towards the end of the lesser ascent of the Col d'Aspin, when Laurent Jalabert set French hearts racing with a spectacular though short-lived assault, and for a moment Ullrich looked uncertain how to respond. Encouraged, Jalabert continued as the road plunged downhill. The French champion was to pay for his temerity on the Peyresourde. Five miles from the summit, a deep defile between two green, mist-enveloped peaks, Ullrich put the pressure on and Jalabert cracked immediately, together with the Basque Abraham Olano, who finished fourth last year.

In regaining the *maillot jaune*, Ullrich bore little resemblance to the bloodied figure who started the season a stone overweight. One of Indurain's hallmarks was the way he would never hesitate to crush an opponent on seeing a weakness. Ullrich seemed to have been taking lessons from the master.

With the descent into this elegant spa town over, Ullrich's gaps were not definitive. In 59 seconds in front of Olano and Imin Ibañez ahead of Jalabert — but first blood had gone to the German: metaphorically, in that the verdict of the first mountain stage is rarely reversed, and literally, in that Jalabert and Olano had crashed during the stage, although with little sign of serious injury.

They were not the only ones to fall. The clouds had turned the road, in places, into a skating-rink, upon which the riders descended at almost zero visibility. One of many minor pile-ups on the Aubisque descent did for the

Italian Francesco Casagrande, last year's sixth finisher. He was one of 17 abandoners; the Tour field was literally decimated.

An elite nine riders survived Ullrich's first assault of this Tour, and they were mainly mountain men such as the Spaniards Fernando Escarbarri and Jose Maria Jimenez. The American Bobby Julich was the only rider who had shown well in Saturday's time-trial to remain in Ullrich's wheelmarks; he lies a surprise second to the German.

Any doubts that Marco Pantani had lost motivation since winning the Tour of Italy were removed when the Italian scalatore [climber] from Rimini staged a characteristic attack a mile from the Peyresourde summit, with his piratical headscarf flying in the wind above his goatee beard and carrying. As usual, not one of the lead group could hold his pace.

Pantani could sense that, a little higher up the mountain, a fresh-faced Frenchman, Cédric Vasseur, and the grizzled Italian Rodolfo Massi were weakening after leading over the three previous passes. He duly gobbled up Vasseur, but Massi hung on, just, to deny Pantani his fourth Tour stage win. Massi joins an elite list of mountainers to win this classic stage, the last being Scotland's Robert Millar in 1983.

Pantani will be the favourite to win today's short, vicious stage, which includes a mountain-top finish at Plateau de Beille, the hilltop of the bee. However, if Ullrich's show of strength yesterday is anything to go by, Pantani will have to attack on every mountain between here and Paris to concern the German.

William Fotheringham is assistant editor of Cycling Weekly



Hard work ahead... the overnight leader Laurent Desbiens (No. 132) tails the peloton on the approach to the first climb in the mist-shrouded Pyrenees

PHOTOGRAPH BY PETER DEJONG

# SPORTS NEWS 13

## Racing

## Silver sparkles on his way to Diamond bid

Ron Cox

**T**HREE-YEAR-OLDS Roy Atherton and High-Rise head the betting on Saturday's King George VI And Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes at Ascot, but they face a strong challenge from the older horses and there was encouraging news for supporters of Silver Patriarch yesterday.

Widely available at 5-1, last year's St Leger winner came through his final piece of fast work with flying colours at John Dunlop's Arundel stables.

"The trainer and the lad who rides him are both very happy," said Silver Patriarch's owner-breeder, Peter Winfield.

Ascot, with its relatively short finishing straight, may not look the ideal course for Silver Patriarch and Saturday will be the first time he has raced there.

But Winfield is not unduly worried on that score. "It really depends on the pace as he does need a good gallop," he said.

But where he is on the bend coming into the straight is crucial. You wouldn't want him out with the washing net in the Coronation Cup at Epsom Silver Patriarch came with a wet sail to cut down Swain, but it was last year's King George winner who was the market mover yesterday following Frankie Dettori's decision to partner him in preference to Daylam.

Coral cut Swain from 6-1 to 4-1 and Hill's clipped him to 9-2. The latter firm had Daylam on 6-1 for a short time, but later shortened Mick Kinane's mount to 9-2. Royal Red suggests a new trainer anticipates a good run tonight.

mouth yesterday, though whether the three-year-old — lead horse to the stable's juveniles — reproduces the form next time remains to be seen. Kieran Fallon gave up his final two rides at Yarmouth complaining of dehydration, but he should be in action at Sandown tonight where he has several eye-catching rides. His strong handling will get the best out of John Fernelley (7.15).

With the starting stalls placed on the far side over the straight five furlongs, punters should be homing in on the greatly favoured high numbers in the draw for the Barometer Handicap. The top two in the weights, Storyteller and Dominos Air, are well placed in stalls nine and 10, respectively, and they could fight out the finish.

Dominant Air, who was poorly drawn in the Goodwood Park Cup last time, should fare much better with Fallon in the driving seat. He can make a bold bid to lead all the way, but Storyteller (8.45) may not be done with yet. After the four-year-old won comfortably at Pontefract last Friday night, his in-form trainer, Michael Dods remarked that Storyteller was very well suited by a stiff five furlongs. He has that tonight and Storyteller still looks a step ahead of the handicapper.

Love Me Do (7.45) can go close at a good price in the mile and six furlongs Solaglas Handicap. A rare flat runner for Merrita Jones, who has her jumpers in cracking form, Love Me Do won at Redcar over this trip on his final start for Mark Johnston last year and the booking of John Reid suggests a new trainer anticipates a good run tonight.

## Worcester (N.H.) meeting

| HOW COX | TOP FORM       |
|---------|----------------|
| 2.15    | In The Game    |
| 2.30    | Star Trek      |
| 2.45    | Zalmon         |
| 3.15    | Midnight Air   |
| 3.30    | Stratocruiser  |
| 3.45    | Chalchicomula  |
| 4.15    | Plumage Secret |

Fast, easy, left-handed hand of 100ft with 220yds run-in. Saving Good to Firm, 4 Denotes blunders. Savages may improve: 3.15 Finesse To Race, 2.45 Equinox Lawyer, Equinox. Worcester: 4.45 Zee Lane.

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## Catterick Jackpot card with guide to the form

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|---------|--------------------|
| 2.00    | Miss Grapetto      |
| 2.30    | Forest Star        |
| 3.00    | Diagonal Star      |
| 3.30    | Royal Dome (nb)    |
| 4.00    | Doublet Blaise     |
| 4.30    | Western Capitalist |
| 5.00    | Kowalsky           |

Left-handed card of just under 100ft with 20 run-in. Sharp and unrelenting, unrelenting to long-standing horse. Colours: Good in Salt in places, 4 Denotes blunders. Savages may improve: 4.30 Palomares, 5.00 Denotes blunders. Worcester: 4.45 Zee Lane.

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## 2.30 Huddersfield Selling Stakes 2YO

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| 2.30    | Huddersfield Selling Stakes 2YO |
| 3.00    | Leeds Nursery Handicap 2YO      |
| 3.30    | Leeds Nursery Handicap 2YO      |
| 4.00    | Leeds Nursery Handicap 2YO      |
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| 3.00    | Leeds Nursery Handicap 2YO      |
| 3.30    | Leeds Nursery Handicap 2YO      |
| 4.00    | Leeds Nursery Handicap 2YO      |
| 4.30    | Leeds Nursery Handicap 2YO      |
| 5.00    | Leeds Nursery Handicap 2YO      |

Left-handed card of just under 100ft with 20 run-in. Sharp and unrelenting, unrelenting to long-standing horse. Colours: Good in Salt in places, 4 Denotes blunders. Savages may improve: 4.30 Palomares, 5.00 Denotes blunders. Worcester: 4.45 Zee Lane.

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## 3.30 Tote Hand











Liverpool snub over Paraguay keeper, page 14  
Goodwill disappointment for Jackson, page 14

Villeneuve leaves the Williams fold, page 15  
England's one-day whitewash, page 15

# SportsGuardian

## Tour de France



Under a cloud... the Tour riders descend from the mountain mists of the Pyrenees as admissions of drug funds were being made further north in Lille

PHOTOGRAPH: ERIC GALLARDO

## Festina's drug-cash pool

William Fotheringham on the team management's confession that cyclists' bonuses were systematically used to buy banned drugs

**T**HE Festina Watches team, who were thrown off the Tour on Friday after their manager admitted supplying his riders with banned drugs, maintained a \$40,000 war chest for the purchase of drugs such as the blood booster erythropoietin and human growth hormone, the police inquiry in Lille has been told.

The fund was siphoned off from the money paid by the team to their riders to reward good performances, said the lawyer representing the team's doctor Eric Rycckaert.

The lawyer, Antoine Rycckaert — no relation — said: "The riders were made to put part of their bonuses in a secret fund which was intended to finance the purchase of drugs. The substances, as well as legal medicines, were kept at the team's headquarters in Lyon."

The doctor, as well as the team masseur Willy Voet and team manager Bruno Roussel, have been charged with supplying drugs at sporting events, and are currently in custody in northern France.

Both Voet and Roussel have corroborated Rycckaert's admission. Voet apparently added that the drug fund was also financed with a proportion of the start money paid to the riders by the organisers of criteriums, the circuit races which take place across France after the Tour. A rider such as the Festina team leader Richard Virenque could receive up to \$5,000 for participating in such a race.

Roussel told police that since 1993, when he took over the team, about 400,000 francs (\$41,000) — or one per cent of the team's annual budget of \$4 million — had gone into the fund. The inquiry team is expected to seize the team's

financial accounts to check his statement.

"This is standard practice in a well-organised team," a former leading professional told the Guardian yesterday. "Normally it would cost a

rider about \$2,000 a year for his medical back-up from the team. Sometimes a percentage of the money race organisers pay a team for expenses goes in the kitty as well."

The inquiry, and the subsequent expulsion of the Festina team from the Tour, was sparked by the seizure of a large quantity of erythropoietin and human growth hormone found in Voet's car three days before the start of the Tour. Roussel subsequently told police through his lawyer that he, the team doctors and the masseurs had collaborated with the riders to obtain and administer banned drugs to improve performance.

The investigating team from Lille is set to question each of the team's 25 riders, as well as the nine meo who left the Tour de France at the weekend. "If they had not been thrown off the Tour we would have spoken to them at the rest day," a Lille police source told the France-Solr newspaper.

While the Festina scandal rumbles on, pressure is mounting on another Tour team, TVM, who have been under investigation since early June by police to Rhelms after the seizure of erythropoietin from one of the team's vehicles in March.

Helm Verbruggen, president of the sport's world governing body, the Union Cycliste Internationale, has said that the Dutch team may also risk expulsion from the Tour. "It's not a decision for the UCI to take," he said. "It's for the Tour de France organisers, but if TVM are guilty of the same thing as Festina the same measures should be taken."

Verbruggen has called on the Dutch cycling federation to investigate the matter urgently. TVM, a transport insurance company, claim that a third party may well be involved.

William Fotheringham is assistant editor of Cycling Weekly



Supplying the demand... Rycckaert (left) and Roussel

## The one-eyed blinded by tunnel vision



Paul Weaver

**C**HRIS EUBANK, whose left eye is so swollen that he might have been given a TKO by his own 22-lb American trainer, is likely to carry on boxing, probably as a light-heavyweight.

He has said that he will not decide his future until September. But he is holding a press conference in 10 days' time and yesterday revealed the mandate he asked for — readers of the Sun newspaper, whose opinions he invited, voted two to one in favour of him continuing. In their "Eu the Jury" poll, perhaps some would like to see him end up as misshapen as some 19th-century circus grotesque.

Not all of us would entrust our future to such a flimsy electorate but Eubank's vision was impaired long before Carl Thompson's fists closed that left eye for the second time in three months in Saturday night's WBO cruiserweight title fight in Sheffield, making the wearing of a monocle an impossibility.

Those of us who attended the Sheffield Arena the other evening carried with us the bleak, part-sublimated fear that we could be taking part in a slowly evolving tragedy, that Eubank could end up as sickeningly impaired as Michael Watson did on that grim September evening in 1991.

Those who watched Christopher Walken shoo his brains out playing Russian roulette in The Deer Hunter, having attempted to save others from a similar end, might have had a feeling of déjà vu.

It is no small irony that the man who so openly and controversially hailed boxing as a champion now wants to cling on to the game with white knuckles when he is no longer good enough to compete at super-middleweight nor big enough to fight effectively at cruiserweight.

The anti-boxing lobby, like Thompson, smell blood. Boxing, once again, is a source of national debate, with the news that there is a lobby to outlaw head punches — a well intentioned but hopeless initiative. As long as boxing is allowed, head punches will continue — and boxing

will not be banned because there is too much money and too many vested interests in the sport.

In some ways the British Boxing Board of Control would like to see Eubank continue. Even in his current, diminished state, he is, after Lennox Lewis and Prince Naseem Hamed, the biggest draw in the domestic game. Promoters were certainly looking for a Eubank victory on Saturday night, because his name is easier to sell than the rather uncharismatic Thompson, who drives a beaten-up Vauxhall Cavalier and lives in a Bolton terrace.

Those who remember Frank Bruno, who suffered serious eye damage, being allowed to continue will not be confident that the boxing authorities will do anything about the case of Eubank. Even if the BBB's decide that retirement would be the better option for this fighter, its powers are limited. When Eubank was 12 he was taken into care. Today, almost 20 years later, he needs the same sort of protection, but there is no one out there who can give it to him.

The board may try to talk him out of it, but Eubank is not the sort of man who can be easily persuaded. They could suspend his licence for a few months, to give his left eye longer to recover, although this action is usually taken only in the case of fighters who have been badly knocked out.

Only if a brain scan registered a change since his first fight with Thompson would the board have the authority to take away the boxer's licence, and this scenario is unlikely.

**S**YMPATHY for Eubank is usually difficult to muster. The man's lifestyle is too ridiculous for words and he has lost his last five championship contests.

Once again, Eubank covered the ring to the familiar refrain of "You're Simply The Best," but only because Tina Turner has not recorded a single entitled "You Were Once Quite Good But Now You're All Washed Up."

Today he seems to be a fighter travelling remorselessly towards his own self-destruction, motivated by an absurd vanity and a cash-flow problem which is equally ludicrous in view of his immense winnings.

That is his personal tragedy, but it is the shame of the boxing business that it cannot do anything to stop him and will do everything to encourage him.

## Century and out for a Derbyshire institution

Rob Steen

**F**AREWELL, then, crooked spine. Exactly a century after their first championship fixture there, Derbyshire have decided to cease staging first-class cricket and the exquisite environs of Gress's Park, Chesterfield. The extinction of the county out-ground, once such an intrinsic part of the game's charms, proceeds apace.

Though purportedly made strictly on business grounds — crowds have

been poor of late and Derbyshire want to channel their resources into redeveloping their Derby HQ — the decision may also have been influenced by recent complaints from Yorkshire about facilities.

The issue of outgrounds is a thing if not vexed, in those not-so-far-off days of 34 championship fixtures per summer, of course, any number could be accommodated. Even as recently as 1958, the season four-day matches were introduced (albeit on a limited basis), Yorkshire boasted six differ-

ent home venues: Bradford, Harrogate, Scarborough, Sheffield, Middlesbrough and Leeds. This summer that has dwindled to two. Indeed, no fewer than 11 of the grounds used 10 years ago have been scratched from the list, among them the cherished likes of Bourne-mouth, Hastings and Weston-super-Mare.

Chesterfield constitutes one of the most grievous losses. Overlooked by a church, the playing arena, where the pitches have tended to be among the quickest in the country, resides in a tree-lined bowl, a natural amphitheatre if ever there was. Of all the feats of derring-do there, none has endured more than Percy Parrin's 343 not out for Essex in 1904: his 68 fours remain a record for a first-class innings.

Not that the disenchanted have taken all this streamlining lying down. A cluster of West Wallians calling themselves the Balconiers recently ensured a stay of execution for St Hel-

en's, the tatty yet endearing seaside venue in Swansea where Sir Garry Sobers struck his historic six sixes off an over 30 summers ago. Last year, Glamorgan resolved to end their association with St Helen's; when the local council declined

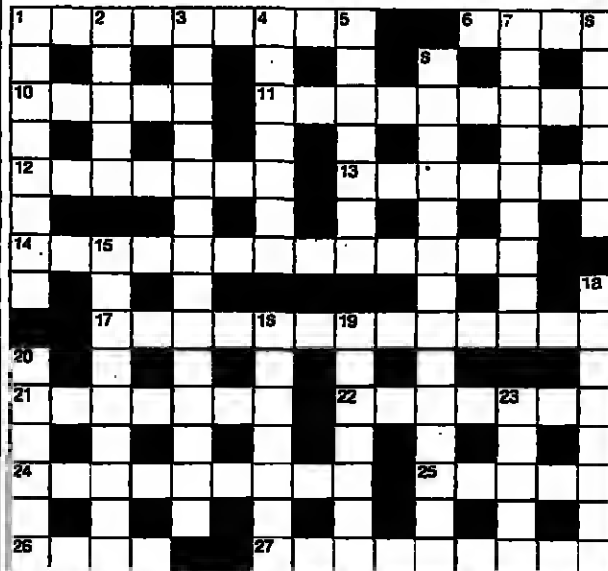


Chesterfield tipped... Derbyshire have dispensed with Queen's Park as a first-class venue

to intervene, Clive Hemp, father of David, the former Glamorgan (now Warwickshire) batsman, joined forces with several hundred like-minded souls to guarantee £10,000 and save the fixture. Where there's a will...

## Guardian Crossword No 21,333

Set by Fawley

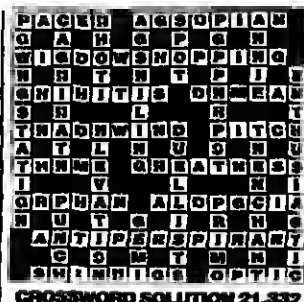


### Across

- 1 Demote Jones's predecessor before danger develops (5)
- 6 One of the Stones supported by two unknowns (4)
- 10 Part of a colossal valley? (5)
- 11 The social status of whoever wrote the biggest cheque? (3,6)
- 12 Start to look, and gaze endlessly, having twice the old problem with vision (4,3)
- 13 Calmer, after editing English publicity for the French (7)
- 14 Signature on score-sheet needed for a match with 2... (5-4,4)
- 17 ... half these players are on the same sort of fiddle (6,7)
- 21 Don and umpire back together — both briefly hold forth (7)
- 22 Break a record-player that we had new (7)
- 24 Succeed with what's required? I can't believe that! (4,3,2)
- 25 Uniformly coloured? (5)
- 26 Aim to host one coming back to have a meal (4)
- 27 Three of the three-quarters going over the line (8)

### Down

- 1 Left alone, fail to get up in time (8)
- 2 Measure inside of wall blitz knocked out (5)
- 3 A sweet companion that's rather de trop — a twill (10,4)
- 4 Carted out old 20s' style of furniture (3,4)
- 5 Claudius's description may appear as a large-sized Penguin (7)
- 7 One of his main responsibilities is the Guardian's circulation (9)

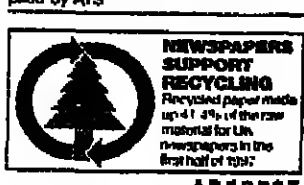


CROSSWORD SOLUTION 21,332

- 8 One old king after another's overthrow — VI turns up (6)
- 9 One may make tricks, using common sense with a certain card (5,3)
- 15 Flower mostly found on grassland perhaps, in Irish locality (8)
- 16 More careful with money? That's right, after a swindle (8)
- 18 Painkiller — codeine, for uncle's internal upset (7)
- 19 A bit of energy shown by a Guardian crossword setter (7)
- 20 Left gaps, keeping speed within its limits (6)
- 23 Scrapping a punt that's not suitable (5)

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**Law 1: The finest stretch of promenade in any seaside town will be handed over to (a) operators of the vilest amusement arcades; (b) sellers of the filthiest food; (c) architects so ineane you would sooner explode and die than use their public toilets.**

**Andrew Moncur, G2 page 7**

مكتبة القرآن